

Abbey Christian Brothers' Grammar School



A Level Subject Choices

2023

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FOREWORD

Dear Student,

As you have now completed over half of your GCSE Final Year, Year 12, it is time to start to consider your educational path after GCSEs. The Abbey offers a broad range of subjects (including BTEC) which we hope meets your particular academic and potential career pathway.

There are **two criteria which pupils must meet in order to be invited back to the Abbey to complete A levels**. First, they must have a strong academic profile as would be evidenced by the achievement of a minimum of 3 Grade Bs and 4 Grade Cs and second, they must have an exemplary behaviour record.

Students traditionally undertake 4 subjects at AS level, the fourth subject expands your subject choices and can also be a determining factor in receiving an offer from a university. However, each student will be advised on the suitability of studying a fourth AS subject.

Where students have met the subject specific entrance criteria and if the subject is oversubscribed we will use your preference order ranking from the subject option form. We will also use the points score across 9 GCSEs as follows:

A* = 5 points

A = 4 points

B = 3 points

C* = 2 point

C = 1 point

There should also be viable numbers in each class, for that subject to proceed at A Level.

Parents and students should make us aware of any other issues which they feel should be taken on board at the time of decision making.

Please read the guidance carefully and in particular the structure of linear subjects which are not formally assessed until completion of the two-year course. AS exams taken in these subjects, although they form part of our criteria to move on to Year 14, do not count towards final marks.

If you are considering studying BTEC Construction (Single or Double Award), or BTEC Information Technology please ensure that it is accepted by a potential university or course.

Students should NOT choose more than ONE subject from Sacred Heart Grammar School and it is strongly advised **NOT to choose any more than ONE linear subject** (i.e. subjects only assessed at the end of Year 14 with no modules in Year 13 Summer).

If considering applying to university in the Republic of Ireland, consider the following:

- **BTEC qualifications** are **not** accepted by the NUI institutions in the Republic of Ireland (check NUI website for guidance and updated information);
 - DkIT **accepts** BTEC qualifications.
 - English Language and English Literature are recognised as **ONE subject** by the NUI institutions in the Republic of Ireland with the highest-scoring subject being considered for university tariff points;
 - Computer Science and Digital Technology are recognised as **ONE subject** by the NUI institutions in the Republic of Ireland with the highest-scoring subject being considered for university tariff points;
- *In every case, students should check the particular degree course entry requirements for acceptability of A Level and/or BTEC subjects.

Career guidance interviews are being conducted by Ms Reynolds to help support your subject choices. This supplements the careers education and guidance you will have received through your timetabled classes.

Work hard over the coming months to optimise your grades so that you are in the position to make the choices that impact on your life now and into the future. If you require further advice or guidance do not hesitate to contact Ms Reynolds, Ms O'Hare or me.

Yours sincerely,

Mr S. Sloan

AFTER GCSE

In the final approach to GCSE examinations, give serious thought to your future. The number of post-16 progression routes open to you is varied and will depend very much on your grade profile at GCSE.

Progression routes include:

1. Study **A Levels** at the Abbey, or study a combination of **A Levels with a BTEC** qualification
2. Enrol at **further education** colleges, e.g. SRC Newry, to complete vocational qualifications or A Levels
3. Join an **apprenticeship scheme** to learn a trade, e.g. to become an electrician, joiner, welder, or similar
4. Join an **employment apprenticeship scheme**, e.g. with a construction company as a civil engineering apprentice
5. Go directly into **employment**
6. Join a **'Training for Success'** programme

SIXTH FORM

Students entering the 6th form will study the following programme:

1. 4 A/S Subjects

Each subject is studied for nine periods per week. All students must choose four subjects for AS and those students aiming to follow a career in medicine, veterinary medicine or dentistry should consider completing the four subjects to A2 level if applying to Irish universities. Students not pursuing such courses can complete three subjects to A2 level.

2. Social Spirituality

This programme covers a Christian social outlook with the emphasis on practical application for student life. Students hear from a series of speakers throughout the school year including careers presentations, donor organisations, misuse of substances and student finance.

3. Physical Education

This programme offers a range of physical opportunities from which the pupils can select according to interest. Programme runs for two periods per week.

4. Study

Thus, a student in 6th form will be in class for 39 periods. The remaining periods will be spent in private study in supervised study.

The private study concept is a very important part of 6th form life as it helps to prepare students for independent study that will be demanded from them at university. Students who cannot study efficiently under supervision are unlikely to succeed at university where there is no supervision.

As the student proceeds through the year, he will be increasingly expected and encouraged to accept responsibility for his own work and behaviour. Each student will face external assessment in two modules usually in each of his AS subjects i.e., a student studying four AS Levels may face eight modular exams at the end of his lower sixth year. Entry into 7th year is not automatic and the management of the school will not encourage any student who has failed to achieve at least a Grade C average across all his modular tests to enter 7th year.

Parents will be given the opportunity to discuss their son's progress at a parent-teachers' evening held in the second term. Should parents feel the need to consult teachers at any other time, they can make an appointment by ringing the school.

N.B. Throughout this booklet various departments have stated minimum entry requirements for studying that subject at AS level.

The management of the school strongly advises that students should only consider taking subjects into A Level study where they have achieved at least a Grade B at GCSE.

A SUMMARY OF FACTORS TO CONSIDER WHEN CHOOSING SUBJECTS FOR 'A' LEVEL

A: Career Requirements: If you have a particular career in mind, make sure you choose the correct combination of subjects. Check university websites and consult the Careers Department. Later, when you come to choose a particular university or college, check again in the prospectus or online that you have the correct combination of GCSEs and A Levels.

B. Subject Preference: Choose subjects that you enjoy studying. Remember, you will be studying each subject for nine periods each week in school, as well as many hours at home in private study and homework. This will prove much easier if you are interested in your subjects.

C: Examination Performance: Where possible you should choose the subjects in which you have obtained a Grade A or B at GCSE. Students attempting A level with a Grade C often experience great difficulty and their success rate is not very high.

D: Take Advice: You should always be open to advice. Discuss your choices with the Careers Department, heads of department, subject teachers, parents, older brothers and sisters, and students already in the sixth form. Listen to other people's opinions and experiences but do not allow others' negative experiences to influence your choice. Make realistic choices. It is your life and this is one of the few occasions where **you** make the decisions.

Why go to university?

Going to university pays off in all kinds of ways. University graduates generally get better paid and more interesting jobs than non-graduates. They are less likely to be unemployed and, if they are, can find new jobs more easily. This is because a university graduate's skills are in ever-increasing demand. Earnings 'foregone' during the three or four years of extra study can soon be made up. The average graduate starting salary ranges from around £19,000 but some graduates can earn up to £25,000 in their first year.

Going to university is also fun, offering the chance to widen experience, meet and learn from the very best experts and mix with young people from all over the world.

University is as much about personal and social development of the individual as it is about academic achievement.

Before making your final choice it is advisable to learn something about what is expected of you in sixth form.

Careers Department Guidance

Choosing post-16 options is an important part of your personal career plan (PCP) and is an important element in determining your initial pathway at 18. The most important thing to remember when making a decision about your future is to **choose what is right for you as an individual**. In a fast-changing society like ours, people no longer stay in the same job for their entire career; do not worry about the "right" decision for life, concern yourself with making the best decision **for you** that you can make **now**. There are many ways of getting to a desired destination.

If you know that further academic study is not part of your long term career plan, then you need to think about alternative options in employment and/or training. Discuss your ideas with Ms Reynolds in the Careers Dept.

If you want to go to university, it is essential to carefully consider the subjects to take for A Level. In particular, check university entry requirements stated on university websites to ensure you have the required subjects for a particular pathway, e.g. chemistry and biology for medicine/veterinary medicine/dentistry; maths (and often physics) for engineering.

Be aware and get information about career and study opportunities post-18, in order to choose ESSENTIAL and desirable subjects now.

Preparing for higher education requires commitment and planning now and over the next two years.

Careers Department – additional information for potential university applicants

- Your GCSE grades are the **only** certified results a university has when you apply to UK-based universities through UCAS. For that reason, they are often the baseline deciding-factor on whether or not to offer you a place at university.
- Some universities only consider **GCSEs at the first attempt for some competitive entry courses**. E.g. **Results of GCSEs may not be considered** for highly competitive courses of study such as **medicine or dentistry**. Please ensure you check entry requirements with individual universities. In addition, a minimum grade B in maths and English language can often be a requirement for courses, e.g. grade B in GCSE maths to study psychology at some universities.
- The threshold for courses such as medicine/dentistry/veterinary medicine can stand at **nine A grades** and above at GCSE. This year, for example, the current threshold for medicine is 34 points. Universities take the **best NINE GCSE results** and add allocated points for each grade to points allocated to **additional tests** like the **UCAT** score for medicine and dentistry (maximum of six points available from the UCAT). GCSE A* = 4 points; A = 3 points etc.
- Students applying to medicine, veterinary medicine/science, dentistry, and some competitive entry courses **should consider completing four subjects at A Level** where they intend to **apply for Irish universities**. CAO points are extremely high for such courses. UK universities usually make offers based on three A Level grades. **RELEVANT work experience** is also essential for the above candidates and for those applying to health-related careers and caring professions such as social work and initial teacher education. E.g. some veterinary medicine/science courses can require up to *six weeks* of completed work experience in a range of settings with small and large animals.
- **Aptitude tests for medicine** and other high demand courses, such as law, or for top universities form an **important part of the application process**, e.g. the University Clinical Aptitude Test (**UCAT**) or the BioMedical Admissions Test (**BMAT**) for medicine; the **HPAT-Ireland** for medicine in Irish universities, the Health Professions Admission Test (**HPAT-Ulster**) for physiotherapy and other health related/life science courses at Ulster University specifically. In addition, the universities of Oxford and Cambridge have a series of admissions tests in specific subject areas, e.g. Oxford's ELAT for candidates applying to study English, or the MAT for candidates applying to study mathematics. Achieving a high enough score in admissions tests like these, leads to an interview or multiple mini interviews as the final stage of the selection process.
- **The A* grade at A Level** may be specified as **part of an alternative offer** for a limited range of degree programmes.
- **UCAS Applications** to the UK are scored as follows:

UCAS Tariff Points from September 2017

A2 Grade	New Tariff	AS & AS VCE Grade	New Tariff	Pearson BTEC Subsidiary Diploma (QCF) Grade	New Tariff
A*	56			Distinction*	56
A	48	A	20	Distinction	48
B	40	B	16	/	/
C	32	C	12	Merit	32
D	24	D	10	/	/
E	16	E	6	Pass	16

Edexcel BTEC National Award

Grade	New Tariff
Distinction	48
Merit	32
Pass	16

Music Qualifications

Certificate in Graded Examination in Music Performance

Grade	Grade 8	Grade 7	Grade 6
Distinction	30	16	12
Merit	24	12	10
Pass	18	10	6

Certificate in Graded Examination in Music Theory

Grade	Grade 8	Grade 7	Grade 6
Distinction	10	8	6
Merit	9	7	5
Pass	8	6	4

Speech and Drama Qualifications

Graded Qualifications in Speech and Drama

Grade	Grade 8	Grade 7	Grade 6
Distinction	30	16	12
Merit	27	14	10
Pass	24	12	8

Speech and Drama: Performance Studies

Official title: LAMDA

Certificate in Speech and Drama: Performance Studies

Grade	Tariff
Distinction	24
Merit	16
Pass	8

Entry requirements for ALL university courses can be found online via the universities' websites or via UCAS (www.ucas.com) using its course finder tool.

Copies of prospectuses for all major UK and Irish universities and training colleges are available in Ms Reynolds' careers room for students to review.

Digital resources are in the **Careers Google Classroom**.

www.qub.ac.uk

www.ulster.ac.uk

www.ucd.ie

www.tcd.ie

www.dcu.ie

www.nuigalway.ie

www.maynoothuniversity.ie

www.ucc.ie

www.ul.ie

Applying to Irish universities

Applications through CAO are completed in the first week of January of 7th Year, at which stage ALL UCAS applications will have been sent.

CAO Applications to the Republic of Ireland are scored as follows:

Best FOUR subjects at A Level from ONE academic year;

OR

Best THREE at A Level from ONE academic year, **plus ONE AS** subject from either the same or preceding year only. (In other words from the same two-year certification cycle.)

Applicant Scoring for GCE/GCSE – for applicants from 2019

From 2019		Universities and associated colleges		Institutes of Technology & TU Dublin (other than DkIT)	
		4th Subject			
Grade	Best 3 A-Levels	A-Level	AS Level	First 3 A-Levels	AS Levels (& 4th A-level where presented)
A*	185	45	31†	185	74††
A	156	38	26	156	62
B	131	32	22	131	52
C	106	26	18	106	42
D	84	20	14	84	34
E	63	15	11	63	25

† Extended Project is now accepted and scored as AS. It is possible to attain an A* in this.

†† Applies to A-level only

Universities and associated colleges:

Applicants are scored on the basis of **their best four A levels or three A levels and an AS level in a different subject from the same or preceding year.**

The maximum number of points that can be achieved is 600.

Note: Applicants presenting Grade E or above in one of **A-Level Mathematics**, Further Mathematics or Pure Mathematics will have **25 points added to their score** for that subject. The bonus points will only be relevant where that subject is scored as one of the applicant's best four subjects for points purposes. This gives a maximum possible score of 625.

Institutes of Technology (other than DkIT) and other HEIs offering QQI HET awards:

Applicants are scored on the basis of a maximum of 4 different subject results at A and/or AS level. For scoring purposes, the following combination of A Levels and AS Levels are permitted:

1. The best 4 A level results in a single sitting.
2. The best 3 A level results in a single sitting, plus the best AS level result from the previous or the same sitting.
3. The best 2 A level subject results in a single sitting, plus the best 2 results at AS level from the previous or the same sitting.
4. The best 1 A level subject result in a single sitting, plus the best 3 results at AS level from the previous or the same sitting.
5. The best 4 AS level subject results in a single sitting.

Important information for all GCE Applicants to Irish Universities:

- Certified and stamped photocopies of GCSE certificates showing GCSE qualifications achieved must be SENT to CAO in order to meet minimum entry requirements within 10 working days of your application – school transcripts will not be accepted.
- AS Levels entered must be in a different subject(s) to those taken at A-Level.
- Applicants must also advise CAO of any previous AS and A Level awards and provide certified photocopies of certificates/statements of results produced by an examining board to support their application.
- CAO advises GCE applicants to discuss their AS Level certification process with their school. In this school, **AS Level results are frequently cashed in along with A2 Level results in the final year.** As a result, candidates often will not have evidence of their AS Level results until the release of their A2 Level results in August. In this instance, CAO will expect to receive electronic notification of the AS Level results provided that the applicant has supplied their correct exam board, exam centre number and candidate number for all subjects that will be cashed in August of the year students complete A2 exams. This is the responsibility of the applicant.
- If a school cashes in AS Level results in the same year as A Level results, applicants must enter the remaining AS Level subject carried forward on their CAO application – applicants must use the space provided for 'Examinations to be taken' in the Qualifications & Assessments section.
- CAO must be informed if the candidate sat any AS or A2 Level examinations at a different school.

Please note: all applicants must check the matriculation and minimum entry requirements for all course.

Ms A. Reynolds
Head of CEIAG

Subjects on offer at A Level (from 2023)

Subject	Qualification	Type	Exam Board	Location
Art and Design	A Level	Modular	CCEA	Abbey
Biology	A Level	Modular	CCEA	Abbey
Business Studies	A Level	Modular	CCEA	Abbey
Chemistry	A Level	Modular	CCEA	Abbey
Computer Science	A Level	Modular	WJEC	Abbey
Construction (National extended certificate)	BTEC equivalent to 1 A' Level	Modular – a mix of externally marked assessments and coursework	Pearson	Abbey
Construction (National Diploma)	BTEC equivalent to 2 A' Levels	Modular – a mix of externally marked assessments and coursework	Pearson	Abbey
Design and Technology – Systems and Control	A Level	Modular	CCEA	Abbey
Drama and Theatre Studies	A Level	Modular	WJEC	Abbey
Digital Technology	A Level	Modular	CCEA	Abbey
Economics	A Level	Modular	CCEA	Abbey
English Language	A Level	Linear	OCR	Abbey
English Literature	A Level	Modular	CCEA	Abbey
Environmental Technology	A Level	Modular	CCEA	Abbey
French	A Level	Modular	CCEA	Sacred Heart
Geography	A Level	Modular	CCEA	Abbey
Health & Social Care	A Level	Modular	CCEA	*SRC
History	A Level	Modular	CCEA	Abbey
Information Technology (Extended Certificate NQF)	BTEC	Modular - coursework	Pearson	Abbey
Irish	A Level	Modular	CCEA	Abbey
Mathematics	A Level	Modular	CCEA	Abbey
Music	A Level	Modular	CCEA	Abbey
Nutrition & Food Science	A Level	Modular	CCEA	Sacred Heart
Physical Education Studies	A Level	Modular	WJEC	Abbey
Physics	A Level	Modular	CCEA	Abbey
Psychology	A Level	Modular	WJEC	Abbey
Government and Politics	A Level	Modular	CCEA	Abbey
Religious Studies	A Level	Modular	CCEA	Abbey
Spanish	A Level	Modular	CCEA	Abbey

*Numbers dependent.

Summary of Requirements for A Level Subjects

Department	GCSE Requirement	Information regarding Coursework Requirements
Art and Design	At least a Grade B in GCSE Art & Design	Students have four assignments (in total) to produce for this subject in AS & A2. <u>100% Coursework</u> AS1 Experimental Portfolio: 20% AS2 Personal Response: 20% A21 Personal & Critical Investigation: 36% A22 Thematic Outcome: 24%
Biology	GCSE Biology [at least a grade B] DAS [at least a grade BB]	AS 3: Assessment of Practical Skills in AS Biology. Internal Practical Assessment of seven pieces of coursework; A2 3: Assessment of Practical Skills in Biology. Five pieces of coursework.
Business Studies	GCSE Business Studies GCSE at Grade B or above and GCSE grade B Maths and English Language. It is possible for students to be accepted who don't have GCSE Business Studies (6 B Grades at GCSE including Grade B in GCSE Maths and English Language)	
Chemistry	Minimum grade B/BB at GCSE Chemistry/ DA science	
Computer Science	You must have studied GCSE Computer Science and obtained at least a grade B (or grade 6 and above) in this subject. If you enter 6 th form from another school, you must have sat a full GCSE Computer Science course such as OCR, AQA or WJEC. CCEA Digital Technology with Route B Programming is not accepted.	20% programming task- Unit 5.
Construction	GCSE A-C is preferable but it is possible for some pupils to be accepted if they haven't taken Construction at GCSE.	All assessment is done by a mix of externally assessed work and coursework
Drama and Theatre Studies	GCSE A-C is preferable but it is possible for some pupils to be accepted if they haven't taken Drama at GCSE.	Unit 1 Coursework – 30% of AS Or 12% of A2 Unit 3 Coursework – 9% of A2
Economics	One A Grade in either GCSE Maths, English Literature/English Language and/or Business Studies GCSE B-Grades in GCSE Maths, English Language/English Literature and/or Business Studies	
English Language	English Language (at least B Grade)	6 th Year: no coursework 7 th Year (Language Investigation 20%)
English	English Literature (at least B Grade)	6 th Year: no coursework

Department	GCSE Requirement	Information regarding Coursework Requirements
Literature		7 th year c/work on paired prose texts (20%)
Environmental Technology	There is no specific requirement. If oversubscribed, preference will be given to students with B in Mathematics, B in English and B in any science at GCSE.	AS1 (exam) 50% of AS //20% of A2 AS2 (coursework) 50% of AS // 20% of A2 A21 30% (exam) A22 30% (coursework)
French	It is highly recommended to obtain at least an A at GCSE to continue French at A/s Level. However, students have been accepted in the past (including this year) with a B but they were notified that they might find it challenging. The transition between GCSE and A/s level is quite difficult and without solid bases at GCSE, it often proves difficult	There is no coursework involved in French. All exams take place in June for all components: Speaking (with outside examiner in school), Listening in the classroom in exam conditions with the teacher, Reading / Translation / Writing components in one exam in exam hall
Geography	It is highly recommended to obtain a grade B at GCSE.	
Health & Social Care (SHS)	No specific entry requirements.	
History	History (at least a B grade), English Language (not essential but preferable at least a B grade)	
Digital Technology	GCSE Digital Technology Grade B	
BTEC Extended Certificate Level 3 Information Technology NQF	Students can select Extended Certificate Level 3 Information Technology NQF if they have no GCSE Digital Technology, depending on other GCSE results.	
Irish	GCSE Irish (must have grade A or better)	
Mathematics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GCSE Maths & GCSE Further Maths (Additional Maths) with minimum of Grade A in Mathematics & Grade B in Further Maths. GCSE Maths only (MUST have a grade A or A*) and must be from M4/M8 combination. However, if they do not have GCSE Further Maths (Additional Maths) and wish to do the A Level or AS Level course, they must study GCSE Further Maths in Lower Sixth Year alongside their A level courses. 	
Music	Pupils should be able to play at least one musical instrument. The standard of	

Department	GCSE Requirement	Information regarding Coursework Requirements
	performance at AS Level should be equivalent to at least Grade 4 of the accredited graded music examinations boards and at least Grade 6 for A2 Level.	
Nutrition and Food Science	Pupils should have completed GCSE Home Economics in the Abbey and attained a minimum of Grade B at GCSE>	
Physical Education	GCSE Biology Minimum Grade B or DAS Minimum Grade A Ideally Pupils should have a minimum in GCSE PES Grade A. Representative level in chosen sport, i.e. development squads or county teams.	Controlled assessment constitutes 20% 12 week training programme Improving performance Oral 10%
Physics	Triple Award Science Students: Grade B or better Double Award Science Students -grade BB or better	
Politics	Owing to sophisticated and technical language at least a B grade in English Language and / or History	
Psychology	A minimum Grade B in English Language and Maths would be desirable. Grade B in GCSE Biology or DA Science would also be desirable.	
Religious Studies	A Grade A in GCSE Religion and a Grade B in English Language is desirable	
Sociology	No particular requirements	
Spanish	It is highly recommended to obtain at least an A at GCSE to continue Spanish at A/s Level. However, students have been accepted in the past (including this year) with a B but they were notified that they might find it challenging. The transition between GCSE and A/s level is quite difficult and without solid bases at GCSE, it often proves difficult	There is no coursework involved in Spanish. All exams take place in June for all components: Speaking (with outside examiner in school), Listening in the classroom in exam conditions with the teacher, Reading / Translation / Writing components in one exam in exam hall
Technology	Students who have taken Technology at GCSE level should have a Grade B or better if they are to proceed to 'A' Level.	NICCEA Systems and Control Coursework at AS = 50% Coursework at A2 = 50%

Art & Design

The study of GCE Art & Design nurtures a range of qualities which are highly sought after by employers. These include **creativity, problem solving, resourcefulness, resilience, imagination, empathy and innovation. Higher order thinking skills such as researching, analysing and reflecting are embedded throughout this qualification.**

A wide range of STEM careers such as engineering now also require creative, artistic and design skills.

The creative and cultural industries are a fast growing area of the economy and are key to economic success.

A Level Art & Design provides students with opportunities to develop key skills needed for the world of work and further and higher education. It creates a pathway to a future career in a creative field.

AS Level

Unit AS 1: Experimental Portfolio

1. **Unit AS1** is composed of an **Experimental Portfolio** where students develop, explore and record ideas. The Portfolio has a maximum mark of 72, a weighting of 50% of AS and 20% of the overall award.

2. This unit addresses 3 Assessment Objectives which are equally weighted.

AS 1	Assessment Objectives:	Weighting
AO1	Knowledge & Understanding	24
AO2	Creative Process	24
AO3	Skills	24
		Total: 72 Marks

3. Through their Experimental Portfolio students are encouraged to:

- Explore contexts and concepts; techniques, skills and media; visit museums and galleries; make field trips; attend workshops; and engage in any other relevant learning related to art, craft and design.
- This unit provides an opportunity for the student to develop as their practical and contextual investigations progress. This unit is designed to give students space to be creative and learn through visual enquiry without the burden of a specified outcome.
- Students work in a range of media, techniques and processes, traditional and/or digital, within their specialism. They record using drawing and other appropriate visual forms, including observations from primary sources.
- Students explore relevant contextual sources, analysing, discussing and evaluating images, objects and artefacts. They use their knowledge and understanding of the work of artists, designers and craftspeople to develop and extend their thinking and inform their own work and ideas. They must explore the work of at least 2 practitioners. To ensure breadth and relevance, at least one of the practitioners should be contemporary and have produced work within the last 30years.

- Students should present a portfolio of work that reflects their learning. They can present this as sketchbooks, written analysis, two-dimensional and three-dimensional experiments, photographs of processes, digital outcomes, and or time-based or multimedia experiments. Unsuccessful experiments and unresolved ideas are valuable in demonstrating learning and progress. Ideas that the student can take forward in Unit 2 should begin to emerge and form towards the end of Unit 1.
- This unit may contribute to a portfolio for presentation at interview for further study or for employment. It may also form a strong foundation for further study and development in Unit AS 2 and at A2.

The final presentation should reflect the student's potential, enjoyment and broad learning experience of Art & Design.

Unit AS 2: Personal Response

1. Students respond to a theme set by CCEA. Students should develop work into an outcome that stems from the research and exploratory work completed for Unit AS 1. Unit AS 2 has a maximum mark of 60, a weighting of 50% of AS and 20% of the overall award.

2.

AS 2	Assessment Objectives:	Weighting
AO1	Knowledge & Understanding	10
AO2	Creative Process	10
AO3	Skills	10
AO4	Outcome	30
		Total: 60 Marks

3. Through their Personal Response:

- Students produce a "Statement of Intent" to mark the beginning of Unit AS 2. This should outline how they plan to develop their work into an outcome and explain how their outcome links to their knowledge, skills and ideas they developed in Unit AS 1. The Statement of Intent is a flexible document and should not restrict students' creative process or discourage them from changing their intentions as their work progresses.
- Unit AS 2 should include a Visual Enquiry Sketchbook.
- Assessment is weighted towards presenting an outcome.
- Students are not expected to repeat elements of their exploration in Unit AS 1.
- Students should refine and bring together the best of their understanding, knowledge and skills and demonstrate their highest achievement through their outcome.
- The outcome may be started at any time during this period and is brought to completion during a **10 hour Controlled Assessment**.

A2 Level

Unit A2 1: Personal & Critical Investigation

1. **Unit A2 1** is composed of a **Personal & Critical Investigation** where students demonstrate understanding through integrated practical and written forms. The Personal & Critical Investigation has a maximum mark of 108, a weighting of 60% of A2 and 36% of the overall award.

2. This unit addresses 3 Assessment Objectives which are equally weighted.

A2 1	Assessment Objectives:	Weighting
AO1	Knowledge & Understanding	36
AO2	Creative Process	36
AO3	Skills	36
		Total: 108 Marks

3.

As for Unit AS 1 students are not required to produce a completed outcome. CCEA issue a theme at the beginning of the A2 course. Building on the skills and interests developed at AS level, students develop a personal investigation including investigation into the work of other practitioners. They respond to the theme through their own contextual and practical research.

- Students produce a **Practical Investigation** in the form of sketchbooks, drawings, two and three dimensional experiments, photographs and digital outcomes. This work is marked internally and presented for moderation. This unit may contribute to a portfolio for presentation at interview for further study or for employment. It will also form the foundation for an outcome in Unit A2 2. The practical investigation should accurately represent the students' potential in Art & Design.
- Students produce a **Written Investigation** based on a recognised artist/designer/craftsperson/theme or movement. It links to the practical work, informing and reflecting the student's learning as it progresses. This 1,000-3,000 word essay is externally marked but a copy at moderation is presented with the Practical Investigation.

Unit A2 2: Thematic Outcome

1. Students respond to a theme set by CCEA. Students should develop work into an outcome that stems from the research and exploratory work completed for Unit A2 1. Unit A2 2 has a maximum mark of 60, a weighting of 40% of A2 and 24% of the overall award.

2.

A2 2	Assessment Objectives:	Weighting
AO1	Knowledge & Understanding	8
AO2	Creative Process	8
AO3	Skills	8
AO4	Outcome	36
		Total: 60 Marks

3. Through their Thematic Outcome:

Students develop a personal solution independently or create a design brief. They produce a “Statement of Intent” to mark the beginning of Unit A2 2. This should outline how they plan to develop their work into an outcome and explain how their outcome links to their knowledge, skills and ideas they developed in Unit A2 1. The Statement of Intent is a flexible document and should not restrict students’ creative process or discourage them from changing their intentions as their work progresses. Students may carry out additional work or research as necessary but assessment is weighted towards presenting an outcome. They can start the outcome at any time from the beginning of February in the year they are to be examined. The outcome must be brought to completion during a 15hour controlled test. Through this outcome, students should draw together the knowledge, skills and understanding they have developed throughout the A level course and develop and present work for examination that reflects their strengths and interests.

Content	Assessment	Weighting
AS 1: Experimental Portfolio	Students develop, explore and record ideas.	50% of AS 20% of A Level
AS 2: Personal Response	Students present a personal outcome in response to a theme. Students bring this to completion during a 10 hour controlled assessment.	50% of AS 20% of A Level
A2 1: Personal & Critical Investigation (Written & practical Investigation)	Written and practical work inform each other and are integrated, but marked separately. Practical Investigation: 40% of A2 24% of A Level Written Investigation: 20% of A2 12% of A Level	60% of A2 36% of A Level
A2 2: Thematic Outcome	Students present an outcome in response to the theme. Students bring this to completion during a 15hour controlled test.	40% of A2 24% of A Level

BIOLOGY

Students can take:

- The AS course as a final qualification; or
- The AS units plus the A2 units for a full GCE A level qualification.

The specification aims to encourage students to:

1. To develop an interest in, and enthusiasm for Biology, including developing an interest in further study and careers in this subject;
2. To develop and draw together different areas of knowledge, skills and understanding of different aspects of the subject;
3. To develop competence and confidence in a number of skills, including independent learning, creative thinking, practical, mathematical and problem solving;
4. To develop an appreciation and understanding of scientific methods;
5. To appreciate how society makes decisions about scientific issues and how the sciences contribute to the success of the economy and society.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES:

A selection of careers which require a Biological background includes: Agriculture, Horticulture, Forestry, Marine Biology, Food processing industry; Medical - Medicine, Dentistry, veterinary Science, Pharmacy, Physiotherapy, Occupational therapy, Speech Therapy, Dietetics, Microbiology, Chiropody, Radio-therapy, Biochemistry, Nursing, Optics and Ophthalmic; Education, Psychology, Bio-Geography, Zoology, Genetics, Genetic engineering, Biotechnology, Catering Industry and Laboratory Technician.

Biology is a useful complementary subject to A-Level subjects such as Chemistry, Physics, Maths and Geography and the skills it develops will help students secure employment not only within Science disciplines but also in the non-science sector e.g. Management, Administration, Business, Marketing, Sales and computing.

LEVEL OF ENTRY TO THE A/AS LEVEL COURSE:

- Students taking GCSE Biology will need to achieve a minimum of a grade B in order to proceed to A Level Biology.
- Students taking Double Award Science at GCSE will need to achieve a grade BB or higher (with a minimum of a B grade in the Biology component) to proceed to A Level Biology.

Specification at a glance: Summary of the structure of the AS and A level courses.

Content	Assessment	Weightings
AS 1: Molecules and Cells	External written examination 1 hour 30 mins Students answer six to eight structured questions and write an essay.	37.5% of AS 15% of A level
AS 2: Organisms and Biodiversity	External written examination 1 hour 30 mins Students answer six to eight structured questions and write an essay.	37.5% of AS 15% of A level
AS 3: Practical Skills in AS Biology	External written examination assessing practical skills 1 hour and internal practical assessment (Teachers mark the assessment, and ccea moderate the results.)	25% of AS 10% of A level
A2 1: Physiology, Co-ordination and Control, and Ecosystems	External written examination 2 hours 15 mins Students answer six to nine structured questions and write an essay.	24% of A level
A2 2: Biochemistry, Genetics and Evolutionary Trends	External written examination 2 hours 15 mins Students answer six to nine structured questions and write an essay.	24% of A level
A2 3: Practical Skills in Biology	External written examination assessing practical skills 1 hour 15 mins and internal practical assessment (Teachers mark the assessment, and ccea moderate the results.)	12% of A level

BUSINESS STUDIES

The requirements for entering Business Studies is that **students should have achieved at least Grade 'B'** in GCSE Business Studies and also have achieved at least a **Grade 'B' in GCSE Mathematics and English Language**. If a student does not have GCSE Business Studies a decision will be made based on their GCSE profile which should include **Grade 'B' in GCSE Mathematics and English Language and overall six 'B' grades**.

The course is a Modular A-Level, with two modules taken in the Lower Sixth and two modules in the Upper Sixth as illustrated below: -

AS Examination 3210	
AS 1: Introduction to Business	
1 hour 30 minutes examination 80 marks	50% of the total AS marks 20% of the total A level marks
2 compulsory structured data response question based on case study material.	
Available in May/June at the end of year 1 and year 2.	
AS 2: Growing the Business	
1 hour 30 minutes examination 80 marks	50% of the total AS marks 20% of the total A level marks
2 compulsory structured data response question based on case study material.	
Available in May/June at the end of year 1 and year 2.	
+	
A2 Examination 3210	
A2 1 Strategic Decision Making	
2 hour examination 90 marks	30 % of the total A Level marks
1 compulsory structured data response question based on case study material.	
Available in June only at the end of year 2.	
A2 2 The Competitive Business Environment	
2 hour examination 90 marks	30% of the total A Level marks
1 compulsory structured data response question based on case study material (This is a synoptic unit so students would be required to bring in knowledge from their previous three modules)	
90 marks	
Available in June only at the end of year 2.	

The course has proved popular and the subject is one of the fastest growing A Levels in the U.K. providing a good foundation for many University Courses, not just business. **There is no coursework option in A level Business Studies.**

Areas of study that you will follow include:

Unit AS 1: Introduction to Business

This unit introduces you to the business world. It begins, as many businesses do, with the entrepreneur and what motivates individuals to develop business enterprises. You are expected to become familiar with different business ownership structures and the key stakeholder groups which may have an interest in how a business is managed. You must acquire a critical understanding of the importance of quality and its significance in the competitive marketplace, including the production process, and the recruitment and training of a quality labour force. You should appreciate the impact of management and leadership styles on employee motivation and business operations.

Unit AS 2: Growing the Business

You will understand the role of technology in growing a business and how to assist with decision making. They must also understand the impact of competition on a business. You will also acquire a critical understanding of the marketing process, marketing strategy and the use of E-Business. You will build an appreciation of the role of accounting and financial information in business decision making and financial control.

Unit A2 1: Strategic Decision Making

You will be expected to identify business objectives and the potential for these to conflict with those of various stakeholder groups. You will be able to analyse and evaluate stakeholder management strategies. You will gain an insight into business planning and strategy with the need to manage risk and uncertainty when developing business strategies. You will also be able to analyse the importance of accounting and financial information and evaluate financial information to assist in making strategic business decisions.

Unit A2 2: The Competitive Business Environment

This synoptic unit examines the macroeconomic framework within which businesses operate. You are expected to evaluate the impact of globalisation on business activities. You will develop an appreciation of the importance of ethics and sustainability on business decision making and culture. You will also evaluate the influence of stakeholders on business operations. The unit examines how businesses are affected by and react to change within the dynamic and technology-driven business environment.

This is an integrated course which builds on each module. You should be prepared to listen to the news, read newspapers and explore the Internet, to acquire information on the changing business world and the economy.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES:

The course has obvious links to the world of work and should prove beneficial for those considering careers in a wide range of professions including for example, Accountancy, Retail Management, Financial Management, Marketing, Business Consulting, Insurance, Banking and the world of Finance.

CHEMISTRY

Why choose A Level Chemistry?

Chemistry is often described as the most versatile science. It is the science most often required by universities and higher education establishments for students to embark on degrees in medicine, dentistry and pharmacology, forensic & veterinary science, and chemical engineering. It is growing in popularity, and fits in well with the study of the other sciences.

Students can take:

- the AS course as a final qualification; or
- the AS units plus the A2 units for a full GCE A level qualification.

The full Advanced GCE award is based on students' marks from the AS (40%) and the A2 (60%).

In the AS units, students explore the fundamentals of GCE Chemistry which helps them to make the transition from GCSE Science.

There are 6 modules.

Mod. 1: AS	16%	Basic Concepts in Physical and Inorganic Chemistry
Mod. 2: AS	16%	Further Physical and Inorganic & Introduction to Organic Chemistry
Mod. 3: A2	8%	Basic Practical Chemistry.
Mod. 4: A2	24%	Further Physical and Organic Chemistry.
Mod. 5: A2	24%	Analytical, Transition Metals, Electrochemistry & Organic Chemistry
Mod. 6: A2	12%	Further Practical Chemistry (A2)

Practical work forms a very important part of the 'A' level course approximately 40% of time is spent carrying out experimental work.

The broad nature of the 'A' level syllabus together with the specialist topics, allows the successful student a wide choice of related courses at University.

As well as medicine, dentistry and pharmacology, forensic & veterinary science, and chemical engineering other common courses which students opt for include Biochemistry, Biomedical Science, Environmental Health, Food Science and Agriculture.

CHEMISTRY IN ALL WALKS OF LIFE:

You may have imagined professional chemists as people dressed in white coats, bending over retorts and test tubes that give off sinister bubbles but their work is far from isolated.

We live in an age of rapid change but nowhere more so than technology. In this context, Chemistry will continue to be a dominant and vitally important Science. The chemical industry is intrinsically linked to our current standard and style of living. Along with allied industries, it tends to be less affected by the fluctuations of the economic climates at home and abroad. As a result, good career opportunities will continue in the chemical industry whether they are in agriculture, medicine, food technology, textiles, engineering, metals and the environment either public or private.

The number of Chemistry graduates produced each year has increased gradually and is now over 3,000. Chemistry graduates, like many others, now enter a wide range of employment areas. They are well placed to take advantage of the increasing number of opportunities requiring the skills, knowledge and abilities associated with a first degree in Chemistry. About half of all chemists enter employment and one third move on to a course of further research or academic study, the majority of which work towards a PhD.

REQUIREMENTS:

GCSE Chemistry: Grade B or better
Double Award Science Students: Grade BB or better

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES:

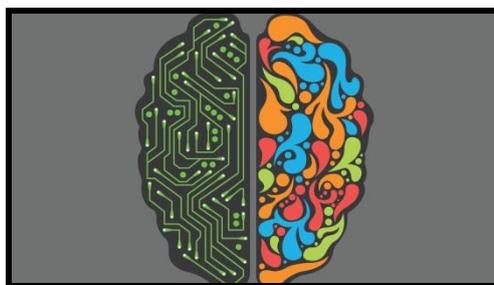
One of the most important reasons for studying chemistry is the wide choice of careers it opens up. A Level Chemistry is **essential** for many careers including the following:-

Medicine, Biochemistry, Biomedical Science, Chemical Engineering, Dentistry, Veterinary Medicine, Food Science, Forensic Science, Pharmacy, Agriculture, Food Technology, Chemistry and Industrial Chemistry.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Subject Title: Computer Science

Qualification: GCE A-Level



What will I study?

Computers are widely used in all aspects of business, industry, government, education, leisure and the home. In this increasingly technological age, a study of computer science, and particularly how computers are used in the solution of a variety of problems

Computer science demands both logical discipline and imaginative creativity in the selection and design of algorithms and the writing, testing and debugging of programs; it relies on an understanding of the rules of language at a fundamental level; it encourages an awareness of the management and organisation of computer systems; it extends the learners' horizons beyond the school or college environment in the appreciation of the effects of computer science on society and individuals.

The WJEC AS and A Level in Computer Science encourages learners to develop:

- an understanding of, and the ability to apply, the fundamental principles and concepts of computer science, including abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms and data representation
- the ability to analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems, including writing programs to do so
- the capacity for thinking creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically

- the capacity to see relationships between different aspects of computer science
- mathematical skills – see Appendix C
- the ability to articulate the individual (moral), social (ethical), legal and cultural opportunities and risks of digital technology.

Course structure

AS = 40% of the A-level grade

A2 = 60% of the A-level grade

Unit 1: Fundamentals of Computer Science

Written examination: 2 hours

25% of qualification (62.5% of AS qualification)

Unit 2: Practical Programming to Solve Problems

On-screen examination: 2 hours

15% of qualification (37.5% of AS qualification)

Unit 3: Programming and System Development

Written examination: 2 hours

20% of qualification

Unit 4: Computer Architecture, Data, Communication and Applications

Written examination: 2 hours

20% of qualification

Unit 5: Programmed Solution to a Problem

Non-exam assessment

20% of qualification

AS (2 units)

AS Unit 1

Fundamentals of Computer Science

Written examination: **2 hours**

25% of qualification

100 marks

This unit investigates computer architecture, communication, data representation, data structures, software applications, programs, algorithms, logic, programming methodologies and the impact of computer science on society.

AS Unit 2:

Practical Programming to Solve Problems

On-screen examination: **2 hours**

15% of qualification

60 marks

This unit consists of a series of set tasks completed on-screen by candidates. These tasks will assess the practical application of knowledge and understanding and will require the use of Visual Basic.NET, Python or Java as a programming language.

A Level (the above plus a further 3 units)

A2 Unit 3
Programming and System Development
Written examination: 2 hours
20% of qualification 100 marks

This unit investigates programs, data structures, algorithms, logic, programming methodologies and the impact of computer science on society.

A2 Unit 4
Computer Architecture, Data, Communication and Applications
Written examination: 2 hours
20% of qualification 100 marks

This unit investigates computer architecture, communication, data representation, organisation and structure of data, programs, algorithms and software applications.

A2 Unit 5
Programmed Solution to a Problem
Non-exam assessment
20% of qualification 100 marks

Candidates discuss, investigate, design, prototype, refine and implement, test and evaluate a computerised solution to a problem chosen by the candidate which must be solved using original code (programming).

This is a substantial piece of work, undertaken over an extended period of time.

Entry Requirements:

You **must** have studied GCSE Computer Science and obtained at least a grade B (or grade 6 and above) in this subject.
If you enter 6th form from another school, you must have sat a full GCSE Computer Science course such as OCR, AQA or WJEC. CCEA Digital Technology with Route B Programming is **not** accepted.

Future Study

Computer Science is regarded as a very useful qualification to support your entrance onto any degree programme or higher education course. Courses that relate specifically to the skills acquired on this course would include among others include; Computer Science, Game Development, Multimedia, Software Engineering, Computer Networking, and Web Technology. It can also lead to career opportunities within a wide variety of Information Communication Technology fields including networking, applications and systems analysis. This course will be the best preparation for students who want to go on to study Computer Science at a higher level and will also provide a good grounding for other subject areas that require computational thinking and analytical skills. Computer Science gives students a real, in-depth understanding of computer technology works. It offers them an insight into what goes on 'behind the scenes', including computer programming, which many students find absorbing. Computer Science is a discipline, like Maths, Physics, or History. It has a body of knowledge, established techniques, and thinking skills, that will last students a lifetime. The core skill-set of Computer Science is independent of new technologies and programming techniques.

Extra-Curricular Opportunities and Support

You will have access to a range of resources on the school network and VLE to support your studies. Computer access will be given throughout the year for after school study. We will be involved in several enrichment activities such as Drone academy events and

competitions such as the Minecraft Albert Basin redesign project that we are working on at the moment.

You will have access to enhanced careers information in this rapidly growing area and several local IT companies such as AllState are interesting in recruitment students with A-level Computer Science even before University.

If I have any further questions about this course, who do I speak to?

Mr Downing

CONSTRUCTION

Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Construction and the Built Environment (360 GLH) (1 A Level equivalent)

Overview

The construction sector

Construction is a very important global industry and is worth £90 billion annually to the UK economy. At technician level and beyond, there is a diverse range of career pathways, with established professional entry and development routes in civil engineering, building services engineering, design/architecture and construction supervision/management. Currently, qualified construction technicians, managers and professionals are highly sought after in the UK industry, with demand for a greater number of professionals to implement and lead low carbon and sustainable building projects in an efficient, cost-effective way.

Who is this qualification for?

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Construction and the Built Environment** is intended as a Tech Level qualification, equivalent in size to **one A Level** and, as such, will be a two-year programme when studied alongside further A' Levels. As well as direct entry to employment, this qualification is ideal for post-16 students wanting to gain the core skills and knowledge required to progress to an apprenticeship or to a work-based training programme in the construction sector.

No prior study of the sector is needed, but students should normally have a range of achievement in GCSEs including English, mathematics and science. Students who have studied GCSE Construction would have a very good Foundation of knowledge in all aspects of this A' level course

What does the qualification cover?

The content of this qualification has been developed in consultation with employers and professional bodies to ensure that it is appropriate for those interested in working in the sector. In addition, higher education representatives have been involved to ensure that it fully supports entry to the relevant range of specialist degrees. There are four mandatory units, which cover the following aspects of construction:

- construction principles
- construction design
- health and safety in construction
- construction technology.

The unit content ensures that you can focus on the key learning required to introduce technician-level theoretical principles, and enables further vocational study at level 3 and beyond. It will introduce your personal responsibilities for health, safety and welfare, the industry and legislative requirements for health and safety, and the application of organisational processes and risk management to ensure compliance.

The maths, science and materials skills you learn will give you the fundamental knowledge needed to enable you to apply skills in a context used within the sector and to progress to further study.

While the qualification has a strong focus on theoretical principles, the content is focused on the practical applications of the principles underpinning construction design, structural requirements and technology as applied in today's industry. While taking this qualification, you will be required to engage with sector employers as part of your course

What could this qualification lead to?

The qualification carries UCAS points and is recognised by higher education providers as contributing to admission requirements to many construction courses. When combined with other qualifications within a study programme, such as 2 A Levels or one A-level and another BTEC National Extended Certificate, you can progress to other areas of construction, such as architecture, via the stepping stone of higher education.

Degree programmes that you could progress to include:

BSc (Hons) in Quantity Surveying

BSc (Hons) in Building Surveying

Architectural Engineering

Renewable Energies

BSc (Hons) in Construction Management

BSc (Hons) in Property Management (Building Surveying)

BSc (Hons) in Architecture, if taken in combination with subjects such as science and art

BSc (Hons) in Civil Engineering, if taken in combination with subjects such as science and mathematics

HNC/D in Civil Engineering, if taken in combination with subjects such as science and mathematics

HNC/D in Building Services Engineering, if taken in combination with subjects such as maths and physics

HND in Construction and the Built Environment, if taken in combination with subjects such as science and mathematics.

You should always check the entry requirements for degree programmes at specific higher education providers.

Qualification structure

Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Construction and the Built Environment Mandatory units

Equivalent in size to **one A' Level**.

4 units all of which are mandatory and 2 are external.

Mandatory content (100%)

External assessment (66%).

Pearson BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in Construction and the Built Environment			
Unit title	GLH 360 hrs	Type	How assessed
Mandatory units – learners complete and achieve all units			
Construction Principles	120	Mandatory	External
Construction Design	120	Mandatory and Synoptic	External
Construction Technology	60	Mandatory	Internal
Health and Safety in Construction	60	Mandatory	Internal

Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Construction and the Built Environment 720 GLH

Equivalent in size to two A' Levels.

10 units of which 7 are mandatory and 2 are external.

Mandatory content (75%)

External assessment (33%).

The Diploma is designed to be the substantive part of a 16–19 study programme for learners who want a strong core of sector study. This programme may be studied in conjunction with other A Levels to support progression to higher education courses in construction areas before entering employment. The additional qualification(s) studied allow learners either to give breadth to their study programme by choosing a contrasting subject, or to give it more focus by choosing a complementary subject. This qualification can also be used to progress to Higher Level Apprenticeships.

Who is this qualification for?

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Construction and the Built Environment is intended as a Tech Level qualification, equivalent in size to two A Levels. It is designed to meet two-thirds of a full-time curriculum. It allows learners to develop significant core knowledge and provides an extensive range of optional areas to allow more depth in areas of their choice.

No prior study of the sector is needed but learners should normally have a range of achievement at GCSE, including English, mathematics and science.

What does the qualification cover?

- The content of this qualification has been developed in consultation with employers and professional bodies to ensure that it is appropriate for those interested in working in the sector. In addition, higher education representatives have been involved to ensure that it fully supports entry to the relevant range of specialist degrees.

The qualification provides the essential knowledge, understanding and skills that will allow learners to progress directly to employment or an Apprenticeship in the construction sector.

There are five mandatory units, which cover the following aspects of construction:

- construction principles
- construction design
- health and safety in construction
- construction technology
- surveying in construction.

The mandatory units will introduce learners to personal responsibilities for health, safety and welfare, the industry and legislative requirements for health and safety, and the application of organisational processes and risk management to ensure compliance.

Learners will study three of the optional units focusing on:

Management of a Construction project

Building Surveying in Construction

Management Techniques in Construction

These units offer learners the opportunity to gain specialist skills and knowledge, which they will need as part of their wider work or for progression to further study. Learners will be required to engage with sector employers as part of their course. This could include work experience with an employer in the sector, where they will be given opportunities to develop practical skills in preparation for employment.

What could this qualification lead to?

This qualification will prepare learners for direct employment in the construction and built environment sector, and is ideal if they wish to enter a particular specialist area of work, such as:

- estimator (if taken alongside an A Level in maths)
- buyer (if taken alongside an A Level in maths)
- construction project technician
- site technician
- trainee site supervisor.

The optional units give learners the chance to learn about a particular aspect of construction in more detail, but because the mandatory content makes up two-thirds of the qualification, they will be prepared for all these roles whichever optional units they choose.

There are many roles in this sector where recruitment is at graduate level. The qualification carries UCAS points and is recognised by higher education providers as contributing to the admission requirements to many relevant courses, for example:

- BSc (Hons) in Quantity Surveying
- BSc (Hons) in Building Surveying
- Architectural Engineering
- Renewable Energies
- Environmental Planning and Business Management
- BSc (Hons) in Construction Management, if taken in combination with subjects such as business and mathematics
- BSc (Hons) in Property Management (Building Surveying), if taken in combination with subjects such as science and mathematics
- BSc (Hons) in Architecture, if taken in combination with subjects such as science and art
- BSc (Hons) in Civil Engineering, if taken in combination with subjects such as science and mathematics
- HNC/D in Civil Engineering, if taken in combination with subjects such as science and mathematics
- HNC/D in Building Services Engineering, if taken in combination with subjects such as mathematics and physics
- HND in Construction and the Built Environment, if taken in combination with subjects such as science and mathematics.

Learners should always check the entry requirements for degree programmes with specific higher education providers.

Qualification structure

Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Construction and the Built Environment
Mandatory units

There are seven mandatory units, five internal and two external. Learners must complete and achieve at Near Pass grade or above in all mandatory external units and achieve a Pass or above in all mandatory internal units in group A. Learners must complete all units in group B.

Optional units Learners must complete the three optional units chosen by the Abbey.

Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Construction and the Built Environment				
Unit number	Unit title	GLH 720 hrs	Type	How assessed
Mandatory units group A – learners complete and achieve all units				
1	Construction Principles	120	Mandatory	External
2	Construction Design	120	Mandatory and Synoptic	External
4	Construction Technology	60	Mandatory	Internal
Mandatory units group B – learners complete all units				
5	Health and Safety in Construction	60	Mandatory	Internal
6	Surveying in Construction	60	Mandatory	Internal
7	Graphical Detailing in Construction	60	Mandatory	Internal
8	Building Regulations and Control in Construction	60	Mandatory	Internal
Optional units chosen by the Abbey				
9	Management of a Construction Project	60	Optional	Internal
10	Building Surveying in Construction	60	Optional	Internal
13	Measurement Techniques in Construction	60	Optional	Internal

Acceptance by local Universities

Both Queens and University of Ulster accept BTEC Construction and the Built Environment qualifications, as does St. Mary's University Teacher Training College and Dundalk Institute of Technology

**In need of any more information or clarification?
Contact Mr. Savage**

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

Now firmly established at A Level, Technology has proved to be a popular choice among sixth form pupils. Technology is principally concerned with design and problem solving processes involving the application of scientific principles and natural phenomena, and leading to the making, modelling and evaluating of an artefact or system. Technology is also concerned with the management of the environment, and familiarity with materials, energy and control.

Our pupils will have the opportunity to complete CCEA Systems and Control syllabus with the emphasis on electronics. This will provide important grounding in all aspects of engineering and design. Students who have taken Technology at GCSE level should have a Grade C or better if they are to proceed to either 'A' Level.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES:

The course provides an important grounding in all aspects of Engineering and Design and is widely recognised as an excellent specific entrance qualification for university courses in Electrical, Electronic, Microelectronic (Computer), Civil, Aeronautical and Mechanical Engineering as well as being very acceptable for admission into Architecture, Quantity Surveying, Advertising and Product Design and Manufacture. It is possible to take a BSS(Hons) course in Technology & Design as well as a teaching degree.

SPECIFICATION OVERVIEW CCEA

- The AS represents the first half of an Advanced GCE course and contributes 50% of the specification content, the foundation for the A2 year units.
- The A2 represents the second half of Advanced GCE course and contributes the other 50% of the specification content, which builds on the AS units to achieve the full Advanced GCE standard.

The structure of the specification allows students to develop a range of skills and outcomes at Advanced Subsidiary (AS), demonstrating their creativity, and apply these to a design and make project at Advanced level (A2). The specification seeks to develop students' knowledge and understanding of, and skills and application in, designing products. They will also develop their research, analysis, product development, project planning and evaluation skills.

CCEA Systems and Control

AS 1: Product Design and Systems and Control	In this unit you will learn about product design including materials and their processing with an area of systems and control. Section A: Product Design and Control is compulsory. You will also study a specialist area; either Section B: Electronic and Microelectronic Control Systems or Section C: Mechanical and Pneumatic Control Systems.
AS 2: Coursework: Product Development	In this unit you will investigate and analyse an existing product, re-design, manufacture, test and evaluate the product. You will produce a 3 dimensional model or proto type which represents the practical outcome of the product analysis and development. You will also produce a folio containing both written and graphical information (this can be presented in electronic format).
A2 1: Systems and Control	This unit is an in depth study of Systems and Control. You will have the opportunity to further the knowledge and understanding which you have gained from the optional sections in AS 1. You will study either Electronic and Microelectronic Control Systems or Mechanical and Pneumatic Control Systems.
A2 2: Coursework: Product – System, Design and Manufacture	In this unit you will manufacture a technological product or system which provides a solution to an identified problem or need. You will also produce a folio containing both written and graphical information (this can be presented in electronic format).

Digital Technology (Replaces GCE ICT)

At AS level you will learn about the ways in which computer systems can be developed as well as studying the essential Digital Technology concepts involved. You will complete two AS units, each with a written exam. These contribute overall to 40% of the A level award.

At A2 level you will complete two additional units, one with a written exam, the other involving coursework. These contribute to 60% of the A level award. For the written exam you will study computerised information systems in detail. In the coursework unit you will have the opportunity to apply the Digital Technology knowledge and skills that you have acquired to develop and implement a computerised information system.

Why study Digital Technology?

Digital Technology explores how information and communication technology is used to store, process and present information efficiently and accurately.

The influence of Digital Technology in all aspects of our lives continues to accelerate. Current and emerging technologies and information services are transforming how we communicate with each other, how we work and the ways we learn. It is essential that we can understand how this technology works in order to make proper use of it. It is also necessary to investigate and understand security issues in order to keep our data and information systems secure from hackers or to recover data in the event of a disaster.

This qualification is for students who are interested in current and emerging technologies and the impact they have on our business and social lives and who wish to utilise them effectively. It is likely to appeal to all, but particularly those students who enjoyed studying ICT, Computer Science, Digital Technology, Mathematics, the Sciences or Technology and Design at GCSE.

What will I study?

Unit	Areas of Study
AS 1 Approaches to System Development	In this unit you will learn about: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The system development process with particular focus on the analysis, design and implementation stages;• Alternative development approaches, which will be compared;<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Software projects;• Security issues; and

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programming concepts.
AS 2 Fundamentals of Digital Technology	<p>In this unit you will learn about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data representation; • Data and information; • Computer architecture; • Hardware and software components; • Processing systems; and • Web technology and multimedia.
A2 1 Information Systems	<p>In this unit you will learn about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Networks; • Databases; • Expert systems; • Applications of digital technology; • Mobile technologies; • Cloud computing; and • Individual, social and legal considerations.
A2 2 Application Development	<p>In this unit you will complete a detailed project. The project brief will be provided annually by CCEA. You will identify and research a realistic problem. You will then design a solution, implement and test your solution, and document and evaluate your solution.</p>

How will I be assessed?

Unit	Assessment Description	Weighting
AS 1 Approaches to System Development	1 hour 30 minute external examination paper	50% of AS 20% of A level
AS 2 Fundamentals of Digital Technology	1 hour 30 minute external examination paper	50% of AS 20% of A level
A2 1 Information Systems	2 hour 30 minute external examination paper	40% of A level
A2 2 Application Development	Internal assessment of a project	20% of A level

What can I do with a qualification in Digital Technology?

There is a wide range of digital technology related courses available for further study at university. By completing the full GCE (both the AS and A2 courses) you will receive a good foundation to go on to further study at higher education. If you wish to pursue an IT career

this A'Level in Digital Technology will help you identify particular areas of IT that you would like to pursue at university or as a career.

Digital Technology would be beneficial in a wide range of careers. The IT industry now accounts for a significant proportion of our economic output. It is a sector with salaries higher than the Northern Ireland average and job opportunities are increasing rapidly. The IT industry in Northern Ireland is forecast to grow at 2.4% per year from 2006 to 2021, over three times the rate of overall employment growth in Northern Ireland. (www.bringitonni.info/parents--guardians/key facts/) accessed December 2015.

In fact, almost every organisation will use IT to conduct their daily operations. As a result, almost all organisations will value the knowledge, understanding and skills that GCE Digital Technology develops. Skills that you will acquire include research, investigation, analysis, communication, problem-solving, time management and working with others. You will also develop practical skills with regard to programming concepts and databases.

DRAMA AND THEATRE STUDIES

Examination Board: WJEC

The Drama and Theatre Studies course is structured with a 60% focus on practical drama development and a 40% focus on the theoretical understanding of how and why Drama is made and the impact it can have.

What does GCE A Level Drama and Theatre involve?

WJEC GCE AS /A Level Drama and Theatre is an exciting and inspiring course. This highly practical specification provides you with the opportunity to work as either performers and/or designers. You will collaborate in devising your own piece of theatre and perform in a performance from a text. You will also perform in a reinterpretation of a text performance which is a combination of selected text and original ideas. You will explore a range of texts and view a variety of live theatre productions. The WJEC GCE AS/A Level Drama and Theatre specification has four units: Theatre Workshop, Text in Theatre, Text in Action and Text in Performance.

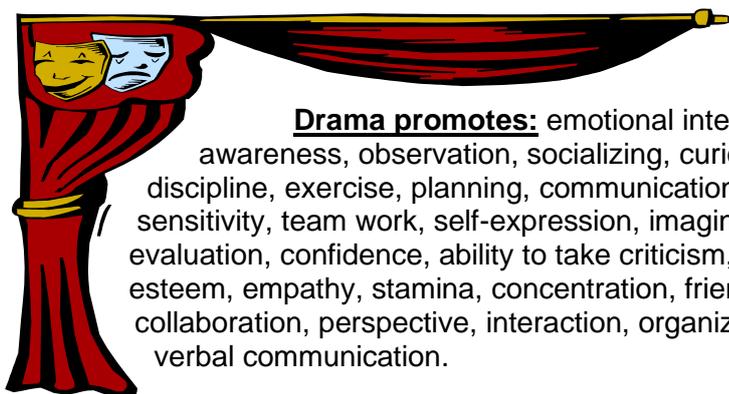
What skills will I develop?

You will have the opportunity learn and develop a range of transferable skills and practise applying these to new situations. These include analytical, problem-solving, organisation and time-management skills. You will also be able work collaboratively to generate, develop and communicate ideas, all of which will develop your emotional intelligence. Your practical skills will be refined and will demonstrate creativity, reflection and resilience, as well as developing confidence and strong presentation skills. Your written skills, both analytical and creative, as well as your ability to self-

reflect, will be developed through a range of tasks. Studying Drama and Theatre will give you opportunities for higher order thinking, by considering ideas which go beyond language. This is great brain-training which will help you in other areas too. Through studying Drama and Theatre, you will be equipped with the skills to succeed in your next steps.

It is recommended that those considering Drama and Theatre should possess the following qualities:

1. A keen interest in the subject developed through the work done in KS3 and/or GCSE.
2. An interest in aspects of performance and/or design for theatre.
3. The ability to work efficiently and imaginatively in a group.



Drama promotes: emotional intelligence, self-worth, play, cultural awareness, observation, socializing, curiosity, responsibility, pride, discipline, exercise, planning, communication, negotiation, compassion, sensitivity, team work, self-expression, imagination, spontaneity, fun, focus, evaluation, confidence, ability to take criticism, vocabulary, self-control, self-esteem, empathy, stamina, concentration, friendship, articulation, leadership, collaboration, perspective, interaction, organization, perseverance, and non-verbal communication.

Careers: Drama and Theatre is an intellectually challenging subject, equipping students with skills which could lead to the following careers in the theatre: actor, director, set designer, stage manager, lighting or sound technician, script writer or theatre critic.

The range of Degree Courses on offer in this area of study is extensive; including, Theatre Studies, Acting, Directing, Musical Theatre, Technical Theatre and Stage Management. Drama and Theatre Studies can be combined with other subjects at degree level and there is a wide range of joint degrees currently available at many Universities.

Other Careers that benefit from having studied Drama: Teacher, Solicitor, Barrister, Judge, Journalist, Drama Therapist, Radio Broadcaster, Social Worker, Youth Worker, Manager, Producer, Public Relations Manager, Press Officer, Fundraiser, Special Needs Teacher, Agent, Event Organiser; and careers in Advertising and Marketing, Hospitality and Tourism, Retail, and Recruitment to name but a few.

This course involves practical performance throughout the two years and is therefore more suited to students with a well-developed set of performance skills and a confidence in performance. You DO NOT need to have studied Drama at GCSE.

There are two qualification options.

Option 1: A2 with four Units completed over two Years

Option 2: AS with two Units completed in one year and cashed in after Year 13.

AS Unit 1: Theatre Workshop 24%	Learners will be assessed on either acting or design. You will participate in the creation, development and performance of a piece of theatre based on a reinterpretation of an extract. You will produce: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A creative log of based on the rehearsal process • A performance lasting between 5-16 minutes (depending on the number of actors in your group) • An evaluation of the final performance or design. 	Teacher assessed, and externally moderated
AS Unit 2: Text in Theatre 16%	Written examination: 1 hour and 30 minutes You will answer: A series of questions based on your chosen set text and on live productions seen during the year.	Externally assessed examination
A2 Unit 3: Text in Action 36%	Learners will be assessed on either acting or design. You will participate in the creation, development and performance of two pieces of theatre: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a devised piece using the techniques of an influential theatre practitioner or company • an extract from a text in a different style You will also produce a written Process and Evaluation Report	Externally assessed by a visiting examiner
A2 Unit 4: Text in Performance 24%	Written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes You will answer: A series of questions based on your chosen set texts and on live productions seen during the year.	Externally assessed examination

How will GCE AS/A Level Drama and Theatre help me in the future?

The World Economic Forum's Future of Jobs Report predicts creativity, innovation and ideation will be key skills for the workforce of the future. These so-called soft skills, which sit alongside analytical thinking and problem-solving, will replace manual tasks that become automated. When business leaders across the world were surveyed, they voted Creativity as the most important workplace capability to help their businesses survive and grow. This means that the study of creative subjects, like Drama, is becoming even more important and relevant to young people to give you the chance to succeed – whatever your ambitions! At the same time, you will find many opportunities to develop and improve your personal wellbeing both independently and as part of a wider community.

Specification Overview:

UNIT	ASSESSMENT	WEIGHTING	AVAILABILITY
AS1: Markets and Market Failure	1 hour 30 mins. Section A short answer questions Section B data response Section C Essay	50% of AS 20% of A level	Summer exam
AS2: Managing the National Economy	1 hour 30 mins. Section A short answer questions. Section B data response Section C Essay	50% of AS 20% of A level	Summer exam
A21 : Business Economics	2 hours Section A short answer questions. Section B Case Study Section C Essay	30% of A Level	Summer exam
A22: Managing the Economy in a Global World	2 hours. Section A short answer questions Section B Case study Section C Essay.	30% of A level	Summer Exam

Career Progression:

**Accountancy – Journalism – Professional Economist – Stockbroker – Consultancy –
Banking and Finance – Data Analytics - Actuary**

Economics combines well with other social sciences and humanities and foreign languages, with mathematics and sciences.

Those with Economics qualifications are well placed for careers in business, finance, government services and professions such as teaching and the law.

Economics helps to prepare young people for a range of interesting careers in many areas of Business, Finance, Government Services and professions such as Teaching and the Law

English Language

2a. Overview of A Level in English Language (H470)

Learners must complete all components (01, 02 and 03) to be awarded the A Level in English Language.

Content Overview	Assessment Overview	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linguistic analysis of authentic texts. • Original writing for a real-world purpose on a topical language issue. • Analysis of how children acquire language. • Language in the media. • How language changes over time. • An investigation into an area of each learner's particular individual interest. 	Exploring language (01)* 80 marks 2 hours 30 minutes Written paper	40% of total A level
	Dimensions of linguistic variation (02)* 80 marks 2 hours 30 minutes Written paper	40% of total A level
	Independent language research (03)* 40 marks Non examined assessment	20% of total A level

* Indicates synoptic assessment.

Rationale

The purposes of this qualification are to:

- define and assess achievement of the knowledge, skills and understanding that will be needed by students planning to progress to undergraduate study at a UK higher education establishment, particularly (although not only) in the same subject area, for example English Language, Linguistics, English;
- set out a robust and internationally comparable post-16 academic course of study to develop that knowledge, skills and understanding;
- enable UK universities to accurately identify the level of attainment of students;
- provide a basis for school and college accountability measures at age 18;
- provide a benchmark of academic ability for employers.

Qualification aims and objectives

To enable students to:

- develop and apply their understanding of the concepts and methods appropriate for the analysis and study of language;
- explore data and examples of language in use;
- engage creatively and critically with a varied programme for the study of English;
- develop their skills as producers and interpreters of language;

- independently investigate language in use.

Students wishing to pursue the following career paths will find this subject very beneficial at A Level:

Law
Journalism
Research
Advertising/Media
Teaching
Web author/designer
Script writer
Drama/theatre work

Please ask your English teacher for further details.

ENGLISH LITERATURE

English Literature at 'A' Level involves a wide study of the three main genres of Drama, Poetry and Prose and encourages students to develop a sound understanding in these areas. Texts are provided to allow students the opportunity to acquire an appreciation of the development of each genre in a historical context as well as through detailed study of particular authors. Practical criticism is included to encourage understanding and appreciation.

ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY GCE IN ENGLISH LITERATURE

This (AS) is the first part of the full Advanced GCE Course and it can be taken by a student as a 'stand-alone' qualification without progression to the full 'A' Level. The AS is a one year course while the full 'A' Level takes two years to complete.

The following is an example of the type of course on offer. A wide variety of texts will be chosen for detailed study in preparation for assessment at the end of two years.

Specification at a Glance

The table below summarises the structures of the AS and A Level courses:

2 Specification at a Glance

The table below summarises the structure of the AS and A level courses:

Content	Assessment	Weightings
AS 1: The Study of Poetry 1900–Present and Drama 1900–Present	External written examination 2 hours Students answer two questions, one from Section A and one from Section B. Section A is open book. Section B is closed book.	60% of AS 24% of A level
AS 2: The Study of Prose Pre 1900	External written examination 1 hour Students answer one question. Closed book	40% of AS 16% of A level
A2 1: Shakespearean Genres	External written examination 1 hour 30 mins Students answer one question. Closed book	20% of A level
A2 2: The Study of Poetry Pre 1900 and Unseen Poetry	External written examination 2 hours Students answer two questions, one from Section A and the question set in Section B. Closed book	20% of A level
A2 3: Internal Assessment	Internal assessment Students complete a 2500-word essay.	20% of A level

3 Subject Content

We have divided this course into five units: two units at AS level and three units at A2. This section sets out the content and learning outcomes for each unit.

3.1 Unit AS 1: The Study of Poetry 1900–Present and Drama 1900–Present

Section A: The Study of Poetry 1900–Present

In Section A, students explore and respond to a range of poetry by two poets they have studied. Students learn to analyse, evaluate, and compare and contrast.

Assessment for this section is a written examination. For more details, see Section 6.1. See Appendix 1 for a list of poems prescribed for study.

Content	Learning Outcomes
Robert Frost and Seamus Heaney or Ted Hughes and Sylvia Plath or Elizabeth Jennings and Philip Larkin or Eavan Boland and Jean Bleakney	Students should be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• articulate informed and relevant responses that communicate effectively their knowledge and understanding of poetry (AO1);• analyse the poet’s use of poetic methods such as form, structure, language and tone (AO2);• demonstrate understanding of the significance and influence of the contexts in which poetry is written and received, by drawing on appropriate information from outside the poems (AO3); and• explore connections between poems (AO4).

Section B: The Study of Drama 1900–Present

In Section B, students communicate their knowledge and understanding of a play by a modern dramatist.

Assessment for this section is a written examination. For more details, see Section 6.1.

Content	Learning Outcomes
Brian Friel <i>Translations</i> or Samuel Beckett <i>Waiting for Godot</i> or Tennessee Williams <i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i> or Arthur Miller <i>The Crucible</i> or Ena Lamont Stewart <i>Men Should Weep</i> (1982 version) or Robert Bolt <i>A Man for All Seasons</i>	Students should be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• articulate informed and relevant responses that communicate effectively their knowledge and understanding of a play (AO1);• analyse the dramatist’s use of dramatic methods such as characterisation, structure, language and staging (AO2);• demonstrate understanding of the significance and influence of the contexts in which the play is written and received, by drawing on appropriate information from outside the play (AO3); and• explore a play informed by different interpretations (AO5).

3.2 Unit AS 2: The Study of Prose Pre 1900

In this unit, students communicate their knowledge and understanding of a novel.

Assessment for this unit is a written examination. For more details, see Section 6.2.

Content	Learning Outcomes
Nathaniel Hawthorne <i>The Scarlet Letter</i> or Mary Shelley <i>Frankenstein</i> or George Eliot <i>Silas Marner</i> or Emily Brontë <i>Wuthering Heights</i> or Jane Austen <i>Emma</i> or Bram Stoker <i>Dracula</i>	Students should be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• articulate informed and relevant responses that communicate effectively their knowledge and understanding of a novel (AO1);• analyse the writer’s use of narrative methods such as structure, form and language (AO2);• demonstrate understanding of the significance and influence of the contexts in which a novel is written and received, by drawing on appropriate information from outside the novel (AO3); and• explore a novel informed by different interpretations (AO5).

3.3 Unit A2 1: Shakespearean Genres

In this unit, students analyse a single play from a chosen Shakespearean genre – Tragedy, Comedy, Problem Plays or Last Plays. Each question offers an extract as a basis for answering the question on the play as a whole.

Assessment for this unit is a written examination. For more details, see Section 6.3.

Content	Learning Outcomes
<i>Othello</i> or <i>King Lear</i> or <i>The Taming of the Shrew</i> or <i>As You Like It</i> or <i>Measure for Measure</i> or <i>The Winter's Tale</i>	Students should be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• articulate informed and relevant responses that communicate effectively their knowledge and understanding of a Shakespeare play (AO1);• analyse the dramatist's use of dramatic methods such as characterisation, structure, language and staging (AO2);• demonstrate understanding of the significance and influence of the contexts in which a play is written and received, by drawing on appropriate information from outside the play (AO3);• explore connections within a Shakespeare play (AO4); and• explore a Shakespeare play informed by different interpretations (AO5).

3.4 Unit A2 2: The Study of Poetry Pre 1900 and Unseen Poetry

Section A: The Study of Poetry Pre 1900

In Section A, students explore and respond to a range of poetry by a poet they have studied. They draw on the skills developed in their AS study of poetry.

Assessment for this unit is a written examination. For more details, see Section 6.4. See Appendix 2 for a list of poems prescribed for study.

Content	Learning Outcomes
Geoffrey Chaucer <i>(The Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale)</i> or John Donne or William Blake or John Keats or Emily Dickinson or Elizabeth Barrett Browning	Students should be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• articulate informed and relevant responses that communicate effectively their knowledge and understanding of poetry (AO1);• analyse the poet's use of poetic methods such as form, structure, language and tone (AO2);• demonstrate understanding of the significance and influence of the contexts in which poetry is written and received, by drawing on appropriate information from outside the poems (AO3); and• explore connections within and between poems (AO4).

3.5 Unit A2 3: Internal Assessment

In this unit, students draw on skills developed in their AS study, in particular the study of prose pre 1900 in Unit AS 2, to communicate effectively their knowledge and understanding of the novel form. The unit encourages independent study, wider reading and enjoyment of modern literature.

Students engage in a detailed study of two novels, one of which must be a twenty-first-century novel. We encourage centres to allow students to select their own novels, with teacher guidance and support. They explore a theme and analyse how authors shape meaning. They also explore the contexts in which each novel was written and analyse connections across the texts. In writing the internally assessed essay, students develop their research abilities and writing skills.

For more details on assessment of this unit, see Section 7. See Appendix 3 for a list of possible themes, twenty-first-century novels and comparison novels.

Content	Learning Outcomes
Internal assessment	<p>Students should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• articulate informed and relevant responses that communicate effectively their knowledge and understanding of prose (AO1);• analyse the writer's use of narrative methods such as structure, form and language (AO2);• demonstrate understanding of the significance and influence of the contexts in which novels are written and received, by drawing on appropriate information from outside the texts (AO3);• explore connections between the texts (AO4); and• explore texts informed by different interpretations (AO5).

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

This course allows students to gain a greater understanding of how literature has evolved. It also allows candidates to pursue texts through the coursework modules and will help students to gain a further mastery of literature and language. This A Level will be of interest to those pupils considering a career in the creative arts, advertising, journalism, law, or education. It should also give candidates a sound competence with language, the absence of which is so often lamented today in the workplace.

Environmental Technology

The European Union has identified the green economy as a “key sector” offering “important job creation potential,” with renewable energy alone expected to provide up to 3 million jobs across the EU by 2020. The UK’s £12.5 billion renewables industry supports 110,000 jobs and could support 400,000 by 2020.

This course focuses on the technological solutions to the energy and environmental problems facing the world today. This A-level provides a sound basis for study in further and higher education either at a design or technical level. It also develops planning, problem-solving and independent study skills that are highly valued in the world of work.

Environmental Technology explores how the scientific community is tackling the challenge of providing for an energy hungry but resource limited world. It examines the generation of electricity from renewable sources by focusing on the installation and operation of wind, solar and biomass technologies and considers how the design of the built environment drives energy efficiency and promotes energy conservation.

Environmental Technology investigates low carbon alternatives within transportation, manufacturing and waste management systems and considers how a range of new and emerging technologies may contribute to future sustainability efforts. This science-based specification focuses on technological solutions to the energy and environmental problems facing the world today. It highlights the need to manage our planet’s resources more effectively and explores how our society will make the transition to a more sustainable way of living.

Table of course content and assessment

	Summary	Assessment	Weightings
AS1 The Earth’s Capacity to Support Human Activity	The impact of declining fossil fuel supplies and options for reducing global dependency on crude oil. Students examine macrogeneration, distribution and storage of electricity from non-fossil fuel sources and consider the use of renewable energy technologies on a micro level.	External written examination 1 hour 30 mins	50% of AS 20% of A-level
AS2 Renewable Energy Technologies	Students will acquire knowledge and understanding by researching renewable energy sources and evaluating the technical, environmental and economic aspects of the energy output from wind, solar and biomass.	Internal assessment Students produce a technical report based on a realistic scenario relating to the use of renewable energy technologies. Externally moderated	50% of AS 20% of A-level
A21 Building and Managing A Sustainable Future	Students explore a range of new and existing technologies and management systems that have the potential to support society’s move toward a more sustainable way of living.	External written examination 2 hours	30% of A-level
A22 Environmental Building Performance	Students have the opportunity to consider the sustainability performance of a building and to apply the Code for Sustainable	Internal assessment Students produce a technical report relating to the environmental	30% of A-level

and Measurement	Homes (CSH) system to a specific construction.	performance of a local building.	
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Environmental Technology complements the following subjects; Geography, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Technology, Construction

Career progression: This course prepares students for degree level courses in; Energy, Environment and Sustainability, Environmental and Civil Engineering, Environmental management.

Careers that can be followed include; Environmental Consultancy, Air Quality Management, Renewable Energy Design Engineering, Planning and Building Control and many other emerging careers.

FRENCH

A Level French will give you a fascinating insight into the world of French. Whilst developing the ability to communicate confidently and effectively in French in both speech and writing, you will also learn about the contemporary society, cultural background and heritage of not only France but of other countries and communities where French is spoken. The AS units can be taken separately as a stand alone qualification or you can take the AS units combined with the A2 units to gain the full A Level qualification.

Q. What will I study?

The topics covered in A Level French are of an up-to-date, interesting nature. Many remain similar to those covered at GCSE, however a higher standard is required and others involve issues which A Level students would be aware of in their lives. Topics include the role of education in society, drugs, immigration and careers. A Level French is a very enjoyable course which builds upon structures and vocabulary learnt at GCSE.

AS LEVEL

AS paper 1 – oral -worth 13% of AS

- 1) 3 minute presentation
- 2) 8 minute conversation

The oral exam will be held in May of AS year and will be conducted by a visiting examiner.

AS paper 2 – listening, reading & translation – worth 15% of AS

- 1) Section A – Listening - 40 minutes
- 2) Section B – Reading comprehension & Translation from French to English – 1hr 05 minutes

AS paper 3 – Extended writing – worth 12% of AS

- 1) Essay of 300 words approx. – 1 hr

A2 LEVEL

A2 paper 1 – oral -worth 20% of A2

- 1) 3 minute presentation
- 2) 3 minute discussion based on presentation
- 3) 9 minute conversation

The oral exam will be held in May of A2 year and will be conducted by a visiting examiner.

A2 paper 2 – listening, reading & translation – worth 22% of A2

- 1) Section A – Listening - 40 minutes
- 2) Section B – Reading comprehension & Translation from English to French– 1hr 05 minutes

A2 paper 3 – Extended writing – worth 18% of A2

- 1) Essay of 350 words approx. based on a literary text – 1 hr

Q. What can I do with a qualification in French?

French is a very important European language in international affairs and a knowledge of French can have a very beneficial effect on job prospects, as employers are now eager to employ people who can speak at least one European language. There are more and more opportunities to use languages in various careers and because of this an increasing number of degree courses are now offering students the opportunity to combine a language with other courses and in many cases allowing them the chance to spend a year studying at a French university.

Learning French will bring you a wide range of skills and attributes. Not only will you be able to communicate in this important European language but you will have opportunities to improve communication and interpersonal skills all of which are highly sought after by employers and universities alike. A qualification in A Level French will offer you a range of employment opportunities and not just in the traditional fields of teaching, tourism, government and marketing. A Level French will also benefit you in areas such as financial services, IT, journalism and engineering.

Pupils require a grade B or better at GCSE level if they are to study A Level French.

GEOGRAPHY

To study Geography is to explore the world around us and how we interact with it. A level Geography is the study of the earth: its landscapes, people, places and environments. It encompasses both its physical features and its human and cultural characteristics.

Specification at a Glance:

AS UNITS INCLUDE

Unit AS-1- Themes in Physical Geography (1hr 15min exam) (40% of AS, 16% of A Level)

- ◆ Fluvial environments - Rivers
- ◆ Ecosystems
- ◆ Atmosphere

Unit AS-2 - Themes in Human Geography (1hr 15 min exam) (40% of AS, 16% of A level)

- ◆ Population
- ◆ Settlements
- ◆ Development

Unit AS -3-Fieldwork skills and Techniques in Geography (1hour exam)(20% of AS, 8% of A2 level)

- ◆ Fieldwork technique questions based on a piece of fieldwork
- ◆ Students bring into the exam 100 words and a table of results and answer questions based on their data found, analyse and interpret results.

A2 UNITS INCLUDE:

Unit A2-1 – Physical process, Landforms and Management (1hr 30mins exam) (24% of A level)

This unit has 4 options from which students choose two:

- Option A: Plate tectonics – theory and outcomes – volcanoes, earthquakes and management.
- Option B: Tropical Ecosystems: Nature and Sustainability – Tropical Rainforest and Deserts.
- Option C: Dynamic Coastal environments.
- Option D: Climate Change Past and Present.

Unit A2 -2 – Processes and Issues in Human geography (1hr 30mins exam) (24% of A2 level)

This unit has 4 options from which students choose two.

- Option A: Cultural geography – Migration and government response, internet access in LEDC's
- Option B: Planning for Sustainable Settlements.
- Option C – Ethnic Diversity – Ethnic Conflict
- Option D – Tourism - ecotourism

Unit A" 3: Decision Making exercise

This unit should enable students to develop decision making skills within a real world scenario.

Students are presented with a variety of resources which may include maps, statistics, reports, diagrams and photographs. Students are then asked to take on a particular role and to examine conflicting values which may be apparent in the case study.

This exam takes the form of a report using headings and sub headings provided in the written exam.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AND LINKAGES:

'A' level Geography is a valuable and versatile subject. Geography is compatible with almost all A-level subjects and thus enhances career opportunities. Students will acquire skills in report writing, investigation, in the analysis and interpretation of complex data and in justifying decisions. These are skills which are valued at university and in the workplace.

A Level Geography allows students to proceed to careers as diverse as Medicine, Law, Town and Country Planning, Marketing, Teaching, Conservation, Environmental Health and Architecture.

Health and Social Care (SRC, Newry)

Health and Social Care is an interesting course that allows students to gain knowledge and understanding of the health, social care and early years sector and increase your awareness of the issues affecting these sectors.

Health and Social Care students learn about health and well-being, rights and responsibilities of both patients and service providers, the importance of communication in care settings and how quality care can be promoted. Students will have the opportunity to access a health, social care or early years' service such as a hospital, care home, day centre, nursery or primary school and gain first-hand experience of the day-to-day running of a relevant care setting.

What can students do with a qualification in Health & Social Care?

The health, social care and early years sectors are major employers in Northern Ireland. By choosing this subject you may be given the opportunity to study a wide range of subjects including communication, physiology and family issues.

You will have opportunities to develop valuable skills such as research, analysis, communication, working with others, independent learning, creative thinking and problem solving.

If you continue to third level education, by studying Health and Social Care you will be able to develop advanced study skills which will prepare you for the transition. You will also develop skills and values for employment in the health, social care and early years sectors.

This subject develops knowledge, understanding and skills relevant to degrees in nursing, applied health professions, social sciences, social work, childcare, nursing, midwifery, occupational therapy, speech therapy, physiotherapy and teaching.

There is a good balance between externally assessed units (examinations) and internally assessed units (portfolios) which enable you to plan work effectively and monitor your progress on a regular basis.

Qualification:

GCE Health and Social Care (Single Award)

AS Units

Students are required to take all three units.

Students will spend their work experience in a care home or early years setting.

AS Unit 1: Promoting Quality Care

AS Unit 2: Communication in Health, Social Care and Early Years Settings

AS Unit 3: Health and Well-being External (exam)

A2 Units

Students are required to take all three units.

A2 2: Body Systems and Physiological Disorders

A2 3: Providing Services (exam)

A2 5: Supporting The Family

HISTORY

The Northern Ireland GCE Advanced Level History Course consists of four modules, the first two are examined in Lower Sixth, and the remainder in Seventh Year.

These modules are as follows:

Module 1: Germany 1919-1945

Module 2: Russia 1914-1941

Module 3: The American Presidency 1900-2000

Module 4: The Partition of Ireland, 1900-25.

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS:

Normally at least a grade B in History at GCSE level is required, but special consideration may be given to pupils lacking this requirement, provided they show proficiency in English Language. Most important are an interest in reading, ability in writing English and a capacity for hard work.

CHOICE OF HISTORY AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES:

The skills acquired in the study of History at 'A' level are useful in most careers. They include the collection, organisation and analysis of information; the examination of documents - processing and synthesising information; arriving at a decision and presenting a logical and coherent argument, the ability for clear expression both written and oral and basing conclusions on research.

It should be noted that History is one of the Russell Group universities' facilitating subjects. The Russell Group is a group of the 24 leading universities in the UK, (of which Queen's University, Belfast is a member). With history seen as a 'facilitating subject' ; they see the study of the subject as opening doors to more degrees and more professions.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES:

Among the courses currently being followed at third level by last years A-Level students, are Computing, Law, Quantity Surveying, Tourism, Retail Distribution, Psychology, Medicine, Agricultural Management, Transport, Politics, History, Social Anthropology, Accounting, Occupational Therapy, Environmental Planning and Radiography.

It is worth noting that in the past ten years History has produced some of the best 'A' Level results in the school and pupils have regularly gained CCEA top 3 placings in Northern Ireland.

Information Technology NQF - BTEC Extended Certificate Level 3

(This qualification carries UCAS points and is equivalent in size to one A'Level.)

1. Qualification Details

BTECs are work related qualifications which provide a more practical, real-world approach to learning alongside a key theoretical background. BTECs are different from traditional A levels however you will still have an external exam as well as assignments that are internally/externally moderated.

You are studying towards a BTEC L3 Extended Certificate in Information Technology. In order to achieve this qualification, you will have to complete **FOUR** different units.

2. Programme Overview

In your BTEC L3 Extended Certificate in Information Technology you will be required to complete the following units:

- Unit 1: Information Technology Systems
- Unit 2: Creating Systems to Manage Information (Databases)
- Unit 3: Using Social Media in Business
- Unit 6 Website Development

In order to achieve the qualification, you are required to complete all the units.

3. Programme Timetable

Please see below for when you will be completing each unit:

Year 13	Unit 2: Creating Systems to Manage Information Unit 3: Using Social Media in Business
Year 14	Unit 1: Information Technology Systems Unit 6 Website Development

4. Unit Details

Unit 1: Learners study the role of computer systems & the implications of their use in personal & professional studies (Exam Unit- externally assessed)

Unit 2: Learners study the design, creation, testing & evaluation of a relational database system to manage information (Case Study – Controlled Assessment)

Unit 3: Learners explore how businesses use social media to promote their products and services. Learners also implement social media activities in a business to meet requirements.

Unit 6: Learners investigate website development principles. They will design & develop a website using scripting languages.

5. BTEC Assessment Information

You will be set a series of assignments that you must complete by the set deadline. Your teacher will mark each assignment, and in some cases they will be marked again by another teacher (internal verification). This is a normal part of the BTEC assessment process.

For units that are purely coursework based, there is a set of criteria that your assignments must meet. A final unit grade will be awarded at Pass, Merit or Distinction:

- To achieve a Pass, you must have satisfied all of the Pass assessment criteria in each assignment
- To achieve a Merit, you must have satisfied all of the Pass and Merit assessment criteria in each assignment
- To achieve a Distinction, you must have satisfied all of the Pass, Merit and Distinction assessment criteria in each assignment

To calculate the final grade for the qualification a points system is used based on the individual unit grades obtained. All of your assignment/unit grades will be tracked using an electronic tracker, which your teacher will show to you.

6. Grading

The final grade awarded for a qualification represents an aggregation of your performance across the qualification. As the qualification grade is an aggregate of the total performance, there is some element of compensation in that a higher performance in some units may be balanced by a lower outcome in others.

BTEC Nationals are Level 3 qualifications and are awarded at the grade ranges shown in the table below.

Qualification	Available grade range
Certificate, Extended Certificate, Foundation Diploma	P to D*
Diploma	PP to D*D*
Extended Diploma	PPP to D*D*D*

To achieve a Level 3 qualification:

In order to be awarded a qualification, you must complete all units and achieve a pass or above in all mandatory units, unless otherwise specified.

To achieve any qualification grade, learners must:

- complete and have an outcome (D, M, P or U) for all units within a valid combination
- achieve the required units at pass or above
- achieve the minimum number of points at a grade threshold.

7. Acceptance by local Universities

Both Queens and Ulster accept BTEC qualifications, as does St. Mary's teacher training college, as does Dundalk Institute of Technology.

8. What could this qualification lead to?

When taken alongside other Level 3 Qualifications, including complementary or contrasting subjects, the qualification gives learners the opportunity to progress to a degree in an Information Technology discipline or a degree where Information Technology related skills and knowledge may be advantageous.

IRISH

THE SYLLABUS:

The aim of the 'A' Level Irish Syllabus is to broaden and deepen the pupil's existing knowledge of Irish thus enabling him to communicate more effectively through the medium of the language both for work and leisure, as well as to increase his sensitivity towards the nature of language and language learning.

AS Level Irish is comprised of 3 modules –

A2 Level Irish is also comprised of 3 modules –

Content	Assessment	Weightings
AS 1: Speaking	<p>Speaking</p> <p>Question 1: Students give a presentation based on an AS level theme related to an aspect of a country or a community where the Irish language is spoken. (3 minutes)</p> <p>Question 2: Conversation (8 minutes)</p> <p>Total time: 11 minutes</p>	<p>30% of AS level</p> <p>12% of A level</p>
AS 2: Listening [A]; Reading [B]; and Use of Language [C]	<p>Section A – Listening</p> <p>Students answer two sets of questions based on two discrete passages recorded on disk.</p> <p>Recording 1: Students answer in Irish.</p> <p>Recording 2: Students answer in English.</p> <p>(40 minutes)</p> <p>Section B – Reading</p> <p>Question 1: Students answer one set of questions in Irish based on one passage.</p> <p>Question 2: Students translate a passage from Irish into English. (50 minutes)</p>	<p>40% of AS level</p> <p>16% of A level</p>

	<p>Section C – Use of Language</p> <p>Questions 1, 2, 3 and 4: Students complete a series of short grammatical and lexical exercises.</p> <p>Question 5: Students translate short sentences from English into Irish.</p> <p>(30 minutes)</p> <p>Total time: 2 hours</p>	16% of A level
AS 3: Extended Writing	<p>Extended Writing</p> <p>Students write one essay of at least 250 words in Irish in response to a set film or literary text.</p>	30% of AS level 12% of A level
	Total time: 1 hour	AS: 40% of A level
A2 1: Speaking	<p>Speaking</p> <p>Question 1: Students summarise and discuss one individual research project based on either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a cultural aspect related to a country or community where the Irish language is spoken; or • a historical period from the twentieth century; or • a region. <p>(6 minutes)</p> <p>Question 2: Conversation (9 minutes)</p> <p>Total time: 15 minutes</p>	18% of A level
A2 2: Listening [A]; and Reading [B]	<p>Section A – Listening</p> <p>Students answer two sets of questions based on two discrete passages recorded on disk.</p>	24% of A level

	<p>Recording 1: Students answer in Irish.</p> <p>Recording 2: Students answer in English.</p> <p>(40 minutes)</p> <p>Section B – Reading Students answer two sets of questions based on two passages, a summary exercise and a translation.</p> <p>Question 1: Students complete a gap-filling exercise in Irish. Question 2: Students answer a set of questions in Irish based on one passage. Question 3: Students read a passage in Irish and summarise it in English. Question 4: Students translate a passage from English into Irish.</p> <p>(1 hour 20 minutes)</p> <p>Total time: 2 hours</p>	
A2 3: Extended Writing	Extended Writing Students write one essay of at least 300 words in Irish in response to a set literary text.	18% of A level
	Total time: 1 hour	A2: 60% of A level

- 8 / 9 Periods per week, 2 periods per week with the language assistant, Pupils read through articles from Weekly Irish Newspaper
Pupils watch DVDs on Irish Language Short Films.
Gaeltacht / Public Speaking / Irish Drama Festival for those interested.

REASONS FOR CHOOSING IRISH:

Irish is the 21st Official Language of the European Union since 2007

- We provide Abbey Students with essential skills for the modern workplace. By studying Irish at AS Level you will develop:
 - Presentation skills
 - Good spoken / written communication skills
 - Interview skills
 - Research / analytical skills
 - Critical thinking skills
 - Translation skills
 - Increased Fluency in a Modern European Language
- There is currently a massive increase in a range of University Courses and Jobs – please check out the following website for a wide range of opportunities
<https://gradireland.com/sites/gradireland.com/files/public/Your-career-with-Irish.pdf>

- There is currently a shortage of Irish Language Translators in the EU. Full-time EU translators/administrators earn between €54,000 to €192,000 per year.

According to the Russell Group of Universities - Irish is a 'Facilitator Subject'

(QUB is a member of the Russell Group)

"Our consistent advice is that taking two facilitating subjects will keep a wide range of degree courses and career options open to you. This is because these are the subjects most commonly required by our universities and hundreds of courses require one or more facilitating subjects."

Dr Wendy Piatt, Director General of the Russell Group

Although Irish is regarded on an equal footing with other modern languages as regards fulfilling the requirements for entry into further education in Northern Ireland, it has the further advantage of enabling pupils to gain entry into, and advancement in a number of professions in the Republic of Ireland, e.g. Teaching, Law, Broadcasting, the Civil Service, Journalism, and the Armed Forces.

Recent census results have revealed that 350,000 people in the Republic of Ireland use Irish daily, 180,000 people in Northern Ireland can speak Irish and 25,000 in the USA use Irish daily. With the current rise in popularity of Irish-Medium Education 4000 children are currently being educated in Irish Medium Schools and this is predicated to rise to 10,000 by 2016. Currently government spends approximately £34 million on Irish Language Services in Northern Ireland each year. Foras na Gaeilge, a cross-border language body, receives a budget of £14million, while TG4 receives €28million as part of its budget from the Irish Government.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES:

These include Law, Teaching, Library and Archive work, Journalism, and Advertising, opportunities with Irish Cultural Organisations, the Gaeltacht Industry, Tourism, Music and Television.

Currently vacancies are available in every aspect of the Media, acting, producing, directing etc. Job opportunities exist in Education, Childcare, Publishing, Science, Technology, Marketing, Finance, Personnel, Advertising and many more. Knowledge of Irish can bring success in employment in many areas throughout Ireland, north and south.

MATHEMATICS (CCEA)

Students, who want to have some A Level Maths, but who do not need the full A Level course, may do an AS Level which has only two modules. The AS Level is accepted by universities as half an A Level.

1. ENTRANCE TO A LEVEL MATHS –

Students in the Abbey **must have obtained a grade A in GCSE Mathematics and should have studied module M4 & M8 combination at GCSE** if they are to proceed to A Level; they do **NOT** need GCSE Further Mathematics, although it is a major advantage to have already studied this course. However, if they do not have GCSE Further Maths (Additional Maths) and wish to do the A Level or AS Level course, they **must** study GCSE Further Maths in Lower Sixth Year alongside their A level courses.

If students have completed GCSE Further Maths in Fifth Year they must have at least a grade **B** in GCSE Maths and Grade **A** in GCSE Further Maths if they intend to proceed to A Level Maths.

A student who had the opportunity to study GCSE Further Maths in 5th year but chose not to avail of this, will not be offered entry to an A Level Maths class.

2. AIMS -

This specification aims to encourage students to:

- understand mathematics and mathematical processes in a way that promotes confidence, fosters enjoyment and provides a strong foundation for progress to further study;
- extend their range of mathematical skills and techniques;
- understand coherence and progression in mathematics and how different areas of mathematics are connected;
- apply mathematics in other fields of study and be aware of the relevance of mathematics to the world of work and to situations in society in general;
- use their mathematical knowledge to make logical and reasoned decisions in solving problems both within pure mathematics and in a variety of contexts, and communicate the mathematical rationale for these decisions clearly;
- reason logically and recognise incorrect reasoning;
- generalise mathematically;
- construct mathematical proofs;
- use their mathematical skills and techniques to solve challenging problems that require them to decide on the solution strategy;
- recognise when they can use mathematics to analyse and solve a problem in context;
- represent situations mathematically and understand the relationship between problems in context and mathematical models that they may apply to solve these;
- draw diagrams and sketch graphs to help explore mathematical situations and interpret solutions;
- make deductions and inferences and draw conclusions by using mathematical reasoning;
- interpret solutions and communicate their interpretation effectively in the context of the problem;
- read and comprehend mathematical arguments, including justifications of methods and formulae, and communicate their understanding;
- read and comprehend articles concerning applications of mathematics and communicate their understanding;
- use technology such as calculators and computers effectively, and recognise when such use may be inappropriate; and
- take increasing responsibility for their own learning and the evaluation of their own mathematical development.

3. SKILLS DEVELOPED -

These include the understanding of mathematical principles and ideas; application of Mathematics to realistic situations; problem-solving; ability to reason, classify, generalise and prove; ability to present complex mathematical information in tabular, graphical and diagrammatic form.

4. KEY FEATURES –

The following are important features of this specification.

- It includes four externally assessed assessment units.
- It allows students to develop their subject knowledge, understanding and skills.
- Assessment at A2 includes more demanding question types and synoptic assessment that encourages students to develop their understanding of the subject as a whole.
- It gives students a sound basis for progression to higher education and to employment.

5. MODULES COVERED –

The table below summarises the structure of the AS and A level courses:

Content	Assessment	Weightings
AS 1: Pure Mathematics	External written examination 1 hour 45 mins Students answer all questions.	60% of AS 24% of A level
AS 2: Applied Mathematics	External written examination 1 hour 15 mins Students answer all questions.	40% of AS 16% of A level
A2 1: Pure Mathematics	External written examination 2 hours 30 mins Students answer all questions.	36% of A level
A2 2: Applied Mathematics	External written examination 1 hour 30 mins Students answer all questions.	24% of A level

CAREERS –

A Level Maths is required by most universities for entry to courses in engineering, computer science and actuarial studies. It is useful for other courses such as pharmacy, banking and finance, medicine, dentistry, insurance, health service management, psychology, accountancy, architecture, general business management, science, teaching and technology.



AS/A2 LEVEL MUSIC

Examination Board: CCEA

The AS and A2 music courses are challenging in terms of the breadth and depth of their content. The students taking music at AS Level will be interested in the subject and will also be accomplished performers at Grade 4 level and higher while those opting for A2 Level may even be considering music as a career or as an option in third level education.

AS MUSIC

AS Music consists of three units.

AS 1	<p>Performance: <i>Externally assessed by visiting examiner.</i></p> <p>Solo performance (Minimum of Grade 5 standard and should last 5-7 minutes)</p> <p>Viva Voce</p>	32.5% of AS
AS 2	<p>Composition: <i>Internally assessed.</i></p> <p>A: Composition Task (1 ½ - 2 ½ minutes)</p> <p>Or</p> <p>B: Composition Task with Technology (1 ½ - 2 ½ minutes plus 4 independent parts)</p> <p>Written commentary</p>	32.5% of AS
AS 3	<p>2 external written examinations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Test of aural perception 1 hour • Written examination 2 hours 	35% of AS

AS 3 involves the study of 3 compulsory areas: Music for Orchestra 1700 – 1900, Sacred Vocal Music (Anthems) and Secular Vocal Music (Musicals.)

A2 MUSIC

The A2 specification consists of three units.

A2 1	<p>Performance: <i>Externally assessed by visiting examiner.</i></p> <p>Solo performance (Minimum of Grade 6 standard and should last 8-10 minutes)</p> <p>Viva Voce</p>	19.5% of A Level
A2 2	<p>Composition: <i>Internally assessed.</i></p> <p>A: Composition Task (2-3 minutes)</p> <p>Or</p> <p>B: Composition Task with Technology 2-3 minutes plus 6 independent parts)</p> <p>Written commentary</p>	19.5% of A Level
A2 3	<p>2 external written examinations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Test of aural perception 1 hour 15 minutes • Written examination 2 hours 	21% of A Level

AS 3 involves the study of 3 compulsory areas: Music for Orchestra in the 20th Century, Sacred Vocal Music (Mass/ Requiem Mass) and Secular Vocal Music (1600 to the Present Day.)

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Students taking AS or A2 Music will use the grades gained to support their applications for third level education. Points are also awarded for practical and theory grades. A number of course options are open to those wishing to specialise in music: universities, conservatoires and teacher training colleges.

For further information please contact Mrs C Keenan at ckeenan942@c2kni.net

Nutrition and Food Science GCE Overview

The above A level was introduced by CCEA in September 2016, to replace the GCE Home Economics course. The main changes are a greater focus on food science, in line with industry demands for this skill set. The weightings of the new GCE are outlined below:

Content	Assessment	Weightings
AS 1: Principles of Nutrition	External written examination 1 hour 30 minutes Students answer all short questions in Section A and two extended writing questions from a choice of three in Section B.	50% of AS 20% of A level
AS 2: Diet, Lifestyle and Health	External written examination 1 hour 30 minutes Students answer all short questions in Section A and three extended writing questions from a choice of four in Section B.	50% of AS 20% of A level
A2 1: Option A: Food Security and Sustainability or Option B: Food Safety and Quality	External written examination 2 hours 30 minutes Students answer a compulsory structured question in Section A and three extended writing questions from a choice of four in Section B.	30% of A level
A2 2: Research Project	Internal assessment Students complete a 4000 word research-based project. Teachers mark the projects, and we moderate the results.	30% of A level

AS1 covers the various elements of nutrition including Protein, Carbohydrates, Fats, Vitamins, Minerals etc. AS2 focuses on diet related conditions such as Obesity, CHD, Cancer, Diabetes etc. The new A2 1 focuses on food safety – food poisoning, chemicals in food, pesticides, additives, allergens etc. The final piece is a research based project linked to one of the above modules.

Requirements

Students interested in this course would preferably have a Grade A or above in GCSE Home Economics, although a grade B could be considered if the breakdown of marks at GCSE were acceptable. In addition to this, Grades AA in Double Award Science would be advantageous for the student.

Students would need to be aware this A Level is significantly different to the GCSE in Home Economics, particularly the Nutrients section, which is very detailed and requires an in depth

understanding of the chemical composition of nutrients. Anyone who struggles in Science subjects would be unsuitable for this course.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION STUDIES

AS/A2 Physical Education Studies (WJEC)

AS Summary

AS Unit 1: Exploring physical education Written examination: 1 ¾ hours

24% of qualification (72 marks)

To assess all AS subject content

Question types

Contextualised questions to include multiple choice, data response, short and extended answers.

AS Unit 2: Improving personal performance in physical education Non – exam assessment

16% of qualification (48 marks)

To assess

- Practical performance in **one** activity as a player / performer
- Practical performance as a coach **or** official
- Personal Performance Profile.

A2 Summary

A2 Unit 3: Evaluating physical education

Written examination: 2 hours

36% of qualification (90 marks)

To assess all A level subject content

Question types

A range of questions to include data response, short and extended answers

A2 Unit 4: Refining personal performance in physical education

Non-exam assessment

24% of qualification (60 marks)

To assess

- Practical performance in one activity as a player / performer, coach or official
- Investigative Research

Subject content

Four areas of study:

1. Exercise physiology, performance analysis and training
2. Sport psychology
3. Skill acquisition
4. Sport and society

The content can be assessed in units 1 and 3 as part of the written examinations and in units 2 and 4 as part of the analysis and evaluation of performance. The specification enables learners to understand the **interrelationships** between the areas of study and apply them in a variety of contexts.

Quantitative Skills

Quantitative skills will be assessed in units 1 and 3 as part of the written examinations (see SAM Unit 3 question 2 pages 40 and 41 for example of a question requiring QS) and in units 2 and 4 as part of the analysis and evaluation.

PE A level helps to prepare students for a wide range of career paths.

Learn skills in a variety of sports, games, dance, swimming, and outdoor pursuits for your own enjoyment and to share with others in many ways

- Develop leadership, organization, and communication skills which will serve you in any interaction with others, in your career or in recreation
- Come to understand the science of the body and how the body works, especially the musculoskeletal system, the nervous system, the respiratory system – and the cardiovascular system – and you will learn how to apply this knowledge to improve sports or dance skills, to repair injury, or to make appropriate exercise and nutrition decisions
- Understand and apply principles of healthy living, physically, mentally, emotionally, spiritually, socially, and environmentally, and learn how to share this knowledge in many settings
- Appreciate the breadth and depth of the health and human performance field, its history and future trends, and discover your place in the field

Career Examples

- [Chiropractor](#)
- [Physical Therapist](#)
- [Occupational Therapist](#)
- [Athletic Trainer](#)
- [Physical Education Teacher](#)
- [Fitness Specialist–Personal Trainer, Fitness Director](#)
- [Recreation Worker](#)
- [Dance Medicine and Science](#)
- [Geriatric Fitness Specialist](#)
- [Gerontology](#)
- [Athletic Coach](#)
- [Dance Educator](#)
- [Exercise Science / Sports Medicine](#)
- [Sports Management](#)
- [Sports Medicine](#)
- Health Education

PHYSICS

Physics is that part of science and technology which deals with how and why things behave as they do. It includes such topics as heat, light, magnetism, electricity, thermodynamics, sound and mechanics.

Physics is concerned with things which vary in size from atoms to galaxies. Atoms which are far too small to be seen directly by the human eye are the building blocks of all living and non-living things in the universe. Galaxies are enormously large collections of stars which can be so far away from us that they are only seen as tiny patterns of bright points of light. The new AS/2 ccea syllabus includes a large section on astrophysics and cosmology.

The syllabus is divided into ten major components:

1. Physical Quantities and Units
2. Mechanics
3. Oscillations, Waves, Source and Light
4. Matter
5. Fields
6. Current Electricity
7. Particles and Photons.
8. Electro Magnetism
9. Nuclear Physics
10. Astronomy

Knowledge of the following topics in Mathematics will be regarded as prerequisite to the study of Physics: Arithmetic, Algebra, Geometry and Trigonometry, Vectors and Graphs.

The full A2-level examination will consist of three written 2 hour modular tests. The last of which examines practical skills in the laboratory.

An AS level is awarded for three written 1.45 hour module tests. The last of which examines practical skills in the laboratory. A data and formulae sheet will be provided for all papers.

Because of the wide variety of subject matter and its relevance to everyday life, Physics is a very interesting subject to study. Physicists rarely get bored with their work. Physics forms an essential basis for careers in engineering, electronics, astronomy and meteorology and a useful basis in many others including medicine, agriculture, telecommunications and the Civil Service.

REQUIREMENTS:

Triple Award Science Students:	Grade B or better
Double Award Science Students	Grade BB or better

SKILLS DEVELOPED:

Physics forms the basis for much of present and future technology. At its heart it is about finding things out, investigating and understanding why things happen. The subject develops an enquiring mind with practical and mathematical skills.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES:

When you study Physics you open up your choice of careers and employment prospects. It is essential for a number of degree courses including engineering, (civil, electronic, electrical, mechanical, chemical, aeronautical) and very useful for a great many others such as Architecture, Optometry, Medicine and Dentistry. Many physics graduates work in the financial industry.

Specification at a Glance

The table below summarises the structure of the AS and A level courses:

Content

Assessment

Weightings

AS 1: Forces,

Energy and

Electricity

1 hour 45 mins

Students complete a written examination consisting of compulsory short answer questions and some that require extended writing.

Externally assessed written paper

40% of AS

16% of

A level

AS 2: Waves,

Photons and

Astronomy

1 hour 45 mins

Students complete a written examination consisting of compulsory short answer questions and some that require extended writing.

Externally assessed written paper

40% of AS

16% of

A level

AS 3: Practical

Techniques and

Data Analysis

2 (1 hour) components

Students complete an externally assessed test of practical skills consisting of short tasks, and a separate paper requiring the analysis of experimental results.

Externally assessed

20% of AS

8% of

A level

A2 1:

Deformation of

Solids, Thermal

Physics,

Circular

Motion,

Oscillations and

**Atomic and
Nuclear Physics**

2 hours

Students complete a written examination consisting of compulsory short answer questions and some that require extended writing. The questions have elements of synoptic assessment, drawing together different strands of the specification.

Externally assessed written paper

24% of

A level

**A2 2: Fields,
Capacitors and
Particle Physics**

2 hours

Students complete a written examination consisting of compulsory short answer questions and some that require extended writing. The questions have elements of synoptic assessment, drawing together different strands of the specification.

Externally assessed written paper

24% of

A level

CCEA GCE Physics from September 2016

Version 2: 13 Oct 2017 7

Content

Assessment

Weightings

A2 3: Practical

Techniques and

Data Analysis

2 (1 hour) components

Students take an externally assessed test of practical skills, consisting of **two** experimental tests, and a separate paper requiring the analysis of experimental results.

Externally assessed

12% of

A level

POLITICS

Government and Politics is a lively, interesting and very topical subject. Its dynamic nature requires students to read newspapers and journals in order to keep abreast of developments in the subject - a week is indeed a long time in politics. Students study parliaments, governments, political parties and current affairs that are happening right now on the world stage.

The study of politics will develop you as an independent and critical thinker, who will not be content just to accept everything at face value. Students will develop skills of analysis, evaluation and creating logical arguments; all of which are highly valued by universities and employers.

Students considering this subject as an A-level option should therefore be prepared to develop an interest in current affairs and to work consistently to ensure progression of their written skills throughout the two-year course.

Politics complements other literary subjects in the 6th form curriculum, such as History, English Literature and Business Studies. It is also a great 'contrast' subject for those studying STEM subjects. It adds to your skillset and shows your versatility. In short, it means that you have another 'string to your bow'. Politics students from the Abbey have went on to study Medicine, Engineering, Actuary and Accounting.

AS Level:

Government and Politics students follow the syllabus offered by CCEA, which requires them to study the following modules:

Module 1: The Government and Politics of Northern Ireland

Module 2: The British Political Process

A2 Level:

In the second year of the course, students study two A2 modules set out as follows:

Module 3: A Comparative Study of the UK & US Legislatures and Executives

Module 4: Political Power

CAREER PROGRESSION

A study of Government and Politics allows students to select from a wide range of undergraduate courses at university and other higher institutions, enabling access to faculties such as Social Science, the Arts, the Humanities and Law. It is particularly relevant for those wishing to study Politics or International Relations at university, two of the fastest growing degree subjects in the country. A-Level Politics is also one of the best options for those considering a Law degree. It also opens up career choices in fields such as journalism, teaching, the media, local and central government, research, business management.

Whatever their next career step, the study of Government and Politics will have involved students in a range of activities such as debates, conferences, and preparation for visiting dignitaries in the world of politics. This will leave them better placed to become active and informed citizens, able and willing to make a valuable contribution to the local and global community.

Please contact Mr D Evans at devans528@abbey.newry.ni.sch.uk

PSYCHOLOGY

Contact: Mr E McGivern emcgivern036@c2kni.net

Exam Board: WJEC

40% of the A Level is done at the end of sixth year (AS exam). The remaining 60% is done at the end of seventh year.

What skills will I get from studying psychology?

If you study Psychology you'll be able to hone your analytical and organisational skills and learn about scientific research methods, including collecting and working with data.

Learning about human behaviour can also help to build communication, teamwork and leadership skills.

What careers can I do with Psychology?

Psychology is useful for any job that requires lots of interaction or an understanding of human behaviour and development. Psychology is also useful for jobs that require information and data handling such as in the financial sector. People with skills in Psychology are sought after in business, management, teaching, research, social work, medicine and healthcare.

Degrees that A Level Abbey Psychology students have gone on to study at University

... Medicine, Neuroscience, Educational Psychology, Finance, Quantity Surveying, Chemical Engineering, Law, History, Software Engineering, Radiography, Teaching Primary, Teaching Secondary, Geography, Architecture, Actuary, Accounts, Criminology, Construction Engineering, History, Psychology, Social Work, ICT, Sports Science, Finance, Environmental Planning, Business Management, Computer Science.

Psychology at Queen's University Belfast

The Abbey Psychology Department has close links to the Psychology Department in QUB. Prior to Covid Abbey students would spend a day at Queen's meeting lecturers and attending lectures as part of a specially devised programme. Many of the Abbey's A Level pupil have gone on to study Psychology at QUB. Pupils with A Level Psychology have been offered places in QUB Psychology Department on reduced A Level Grades (though this can change from year to year). Note that from 2023 a Grade B in Maths is a minimum requirement to study Psychology at QUB.

AS Psychology Syllabus

Approaches: this covers the history and main schools of thought within Psychology including learning theory, behaviourism, biological approach, the cognitive approach & Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT), and the Psychodynamic Approach.

Biopsychology: including the divisions of the nervous system and the endocrine system.

Modern Issues: Neuroscience, attachment theory, conditioning, reliability of Eye-witness testimony, why people obey.

Research Methods: including the experimental method and self-report measures, Data Handling and Analysis.

A2 Psychology Syllabus

Research Methods: probability and factors affecting the choice of statistical tests.

Issues & Debates: free will vs determinism and the nature vs nurture debate.

Autism: Explanations for and treatment of Autism.

Schizophrenia: Biological and environmental causes and treatment of Schizophrenia.

Addiction: Biological and environmental (personal & social) causes and treatment of Gambling, Smoking and Drug addiction.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Like so many areas in school the Religious Studies curriculum is undergoing great change at the moment. At A Level we currently study the CCEA Syllabus. A student coming into Lower Sixth Religious Studies can expect to study:

Foundations of Ethics with Special Reference to Medical Ethics at AS Level:

- Deontological Approaches to Moral Decision Making
- Teleological Approaches to Moral Decision making
- Life and Death Issues
- Developments in Bioethics
- Other Aspects of Human Experience
-

Global Ethics at A2 Level:

- Moral Theology
- Global Rights
- Global Issues
- Synoptic Assessment Theme: Conscience, Freedom and Tolerance

Philosophy of Religion at AS Level:

- Arguments for & against the Existence of God
- God, Atheism and the problem of Evil
- The Problem of Miracle
- Religious Experience and its Credential
- Other Aspects of Human experience

Themes in the Philosophy of Religion at A2 Level:

Religious Language

The afterlife: Body, Soul and Personal Identity

Religion and Morality

Synoptic Assessment Theme: Faith, Freedom and Atheism

Assessment Opportunities:

Each unit is available for assessment in summer each year. It is possible to resit individual AS and A2 assessment units once and count the better result for each unit towards an AS or A level qualification.

AS Level:

One 1 hour 20 minutes paper (Medical Ethics) 20% of overall A Level

One 1 hour 20 minutes paper (Philosophy of Religion) 20% of overall A Level

A2 Level:

Two Hour paper (Ethics) 30% of A2

Two Hour paper (Philosophy of Religion) 30% of A2

Each paper is worth 30% of A2 but overall 60% each of A Level

Pupils will answer 3 questions on each paper. The third question on each paper will be a synoptic question based on a specific theme.

Career Opportunities:

This subject is recognised by all third level institutions as a well-developed Arts based Advanced level option. The skills acquired while studying the subject are valuable for the study of a wide variety of Third Level courses e.g. English, History, Law and Education.

Recent RE A Level Graduates have gone on to study –

Architecture, Actuary, Accounts, Finance, Quantity Surveying, Chemical Engineering, Law, Psychology, History, Law with Politics, Software Engineering, Radiography, Teaching St Mary's, Geography, Criminology & Social Policy, Construction Engineering, History, Social Work, Philosophy, Film & TV Studies, ICT, Sports Science, Finance, Environmental Planning & Business Management

SPANISH

A Level Spanish is a two year course at the Abbey Grammar School. In the first term of Lower Sixth we go back over all of the basics of the Language and then move on to the more complex grammatical structures required at Advanced Level. At all times we ensure continuity, by building upon the vocabulary and structures already learnt by our students at GCSE Level. All students are provided with teaching booklets and materials which we have developed within our department.

AS LEVEL

AS paper 1 – oral -worth 13% of AS

- 1) 3 minute presentation
- 2) 8 minute conversation

The oral exam will be held in May of AS year and will be conducted by a visiting examiner.

AS paper 2 – listening, reading & translation – worth 15% of AS

- 1) Section A – Listening - 40 minutes
- 2) Section B – Reading comprehension & Translation from Spanish to English – 1hr 05 minutes

AS paper 3 – Extended writing – worth 12% of AS

- 1) Essay of 300 words approx. – 1 hr

A2 LEVEL

A2 paper 1 – oral -worth 20% of A2

- 1) 3 minute presentation
- 2) 3 minute discussion based on presentation
- 3) 9 minute conversation

The oral exam will be held in May of A2 year and will be conducted by a visiting examiner.

A2 paper 2 – listening, reading & translation – worth 22% of A2

- 1) Section A – Listening - 40 minutes
- 2) Section B – Reading comprehension & Translation from English to Spanish– 1hr 05 minutes

A2 paper 3 – Extended writing – worth 18% of A2

- 1) Essay of 350 words approx. based on a literary text – 1 hr

All AS and A2 Level students have access to the Spanish Language Assistant and at all times students are given detailed guidance with every aspect of the AS and A2 level Spanish Courses.

Spanish is a really useful subject to choose at A Level as it can be combined at University with the study of a variety of disciplines such as Law or Accountancy, thus greatly enhancing the student's career prospects into the future. A number of Abbey students are presently following such courses at university.

At least a grade B at GCSE is required by those wishing to study Spanish at AS level at the Abbey.